No. 965.

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

NANTUCKET AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

FOR

1859;

TOGETHER WITH THE

Prize Essays and Hymn.

ALSO A

LIST OF PREMIUMS

OFFERED FOR 1860.

PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY.

NANTUCKET:
HUSSEY & ROBINSON, PRINTERS—MIRROR OFFICE.
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PROCEEDINGS.

At a meeting of a number of ladies and gentlemen held at the Atheneum on Monday evening, April 7th, 1856, at 7 o'clock, in response to an invitation by E. W. Gardner and others, named in the Act of Incorporation of the "Nantucket Agricultural Society," Francis M. Mitchell, Esq., was called to the chair, and Timothy W. Calder was appointed Secretary. The Chairman stated the object of the meeting, and on motion the Act of Incorporation was read.

E. W. Gardner offered a Constitution for the Society, which was read, and every article acted upon separately, and then adopted as the Constitution of the Nantucket Agricultural Society.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

NANTUCKET AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

As amended at its Annual Meeting, held by adjournment Dec. 26th, 1859: originally adopted April 7th, 1856.

In order to secure the advantages of associated effort in advancing the cause of "Agriculture and the Mechanic

vals of its meetings, and propose such subjects of improvement to the attention of the public as well as the Society, appoint such committees, publish such communications, and offer such premiums as they shall think proper, provided the premiums offered, do not exceed the income of the Society, from its invested funds and the State; and they shall lay before the Society, at each of its meetings, a statement of their proceedings, and of any communications made to them.

Art. 9th.—The Recording Secretary shall record all the votes and proceedings of the Society and of the officers, and enter them in separate books, subject to the order of the Society.

Art. 10th.—The Treasurer shall receive all moneys due to the Society, and all donations that may be made to it, and keep a true account of them in a book of the Society, and make such disposition of them as the Board of Officers may direct, not contrary to the fifth article of this Constitution; and at the annual meeting shall make a full and true report of the condition of the finances, of the receipts and expenditures.

Art. 11th.—If at any meeting of the officers or of the Society, the President, and Vice Presidents or Secretary shall be absent, the members present may fill the vacancy for that meeting, and not less than four members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Art. 12th.—The meetings of the officers shall be held at such times and places as they may determine upon.

Art. 13th.—Any person, by paying into the treasury two dollars (or if a female one dollar), and signing the

rules adopted by the Society, shall be considered a member.

Art. 14th.—This Constitution may be altered or amended at any annual meeting, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, and voting upon the question of the proposed change.

OFFICERS FOR 1859.

The third Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the Atheneum, on the 13th of Dec., 1858, and the following named members were elected officers for the year A. D., 1859, being the fourth year of the existence of the Society.

President,
JAMES THOMPSON.

Vice-Presidents,
NATHANIEL BARNEY, ELIJAH H. ALLEY,
EDWARD MACY, GEORGE W. MACY.

Recording Secretary,
JAMES M. BUNKER.

Corresponding Secretary,
WILLIAM H. SHAW.

Treasurer,
WILLIAM M. BATES.

Executive Committee,
JOSEPH M. FOLGER, ANDREW M. MYRICK,
EDWARD MACY, EDWARD C. JOY,
*EDWARD CHASE.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE THIRD

CATTLE SHOW AND FAIR,

OF THE

Nantucket Agricultural Society.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

In presenting to the public the fourth volume of the "Transactions of the Nantucket County Agricultural Society," we once more record a year of general and special success in that great department of human industry to which we are devoted. All over our land, plenteous harvests have crowned the work of the farmer. At Nantucket, all crops responded to the creative energy of labor, blessed by the sweet influences of the season. Although by the rain guage, we are assured that less than the average quantity of rain fell during the year, yet it was so divided, and the amount of evaporation was so moderate, that no drought occurred, and no crop was cut off.

The Annual Exhibition of the Society occurred on

the twelfth and thirteenth days of October, under the most favorable circumstances. During the past year, as we have before announced, the Society has purchased a tract of land containing twenty acres, for the exhibition of stock, plowing matches, &c., and a half-mile track has been laid out, on which "the horse," the most noble conquest which man has ever made from the brute creation, may be favorably exhibited. This track has been hardened to the degree which time and the materials at the command of the Society would allow. In the preparation of the track, many persons have largely contributed material aid. When this track shall have become compact and smooth, like the upper end of Main Street, we have no doubt that the Agricultural Grounds will be a favorable place of resort during the riding season. The whole surface of the grounds is studded with thrifty young pine trees, and none of these will be removed, excepting those which interfere with the exhibition of the stock, and of the plowing matches. The grounds have been surrounded by a substantial fence, and a "judges' stand" has been erected, which will be of various utility. This building is in the form of a frustum of a pyramid, and is capped by a pyramidal roof. It is divided into three stories; the lower is closed, and is divided into four apartments, which may be, and have been used as booths with pecuniary profit to the Society and to the occupants. The upper stories are open at the sides, and are furnished with seats. From the floors of the second and third stories, an extensive view may be had of the island.

A gateway has also been erected, with a ticket office.

The construction department has been directed by James Thompson, Esq., President of the Society, and he has regarded utility, economy and taste in all his doings. The proceeding of the Society in purchasing "the Grounds," has resulted most prosperously.

In the absence of any exhibition, a promenade over the ground is delightful in pleasant weather, and when we add the attraction of fine music, fine animals, and crowds of happy people bent upon compassing all the enjoyment possible, we have a spectacle of great interest.

EXHIBITION OF STOCK.

The number of animals entered for exhibition and for premium was large, and we are assured by gentlemen well qualified to judge, by reason of their practical knowledge, and observation of stock in other counties, that most of our stock was of excellent quality. The milch cows attracted special attention.

During the past year four of our citizens have purchased a stallion well known as "Rising Sun." He was on the ground, and we had the pleasure of seeing him driven on the track in harness. His action is very fine. He was not put to his speed, but we judge him to be a fast horse. He is of a bay color, and is eight years old.

A fine stallion of a gray color, owned by Richard E. Burgess, was also exhibited, and was much admired.

A beautiful black stallion, from Martha's Vineyard, came in the Eagle's Wing on Thursday, and was exhibited in harness. He is a full-blooded Morgan.

Several promising colts, raised here, were offered for premium and exhibition.

The following are the entries of stock:—

John G. Wilson, one 2 years old heifer, and one yearling heifer.

Charles W. Gardner, two yearling heifers.

Charles C. Folger, a herd of five cows, one cow and one bull calf.

Zimri Cathcart, one herd of five cows, two yearling heifers, one yearling bull and two calves.

William R. Easton, one 2 years old heifer in milk, and one yearling bull.

Stephen Gibbs, one pair 18 months old steers.

William Bartlett, one yoke oxen, 5 years old.

Benjamin Sheffield, one 3 years old cow.

Joseph Vincent, one boar hog 4½ months old, weighing 142 pounds, seven shoats 10 weeks old, one bull 17 months old, half Ayrshire and half Durham.

Benjamin B. Gardner, one bull 2 years old.

James Thompson, one cow, one heifer 23 months old, in milk.

George C. Gardner, two Southdown bucks, one half Southdown and half native buck, five half Southdown and half native ewe sheep, one yoke oxen.

Edward Hammond, one herd of five cows, two yearling heifers, and one bull calf.

Richard E. Burgess, one yoke 2 years old steers.

Albert C. Folger, four yearling heifers, one yearling bull.

Burgess T. Simmons, one 2 years old heifer, in milk, two cows.

Frederick G. Coffin, two cows.

Andrew M. Myrick, one yearling heifer, one bull 5 years old.

John Winn, one 2 years old heifer, one yearling do., one calf.

Joseph Vincent, one stallion—Rising Sun—8 years old, one mare and colt.

Charles C. Folger, one mare and colt.

E. W. Gardner, one 2 years old colt, weighing 900 pounds, one yearling colt.

Joseph M. Folger, one 3 years old colt, one 2 years old do., weighing 803 pounds.

Arnold Morse, one 2 years old colt, weighing 793 pounds.

Benjamin B. Gardner, one 17 months old colt, weighing 700 pounds.

Edward Hammond, one mare and colt.

Charles W. Gardner, one do. do., and one colt 27 months old, weighing 910 pounds.

William Starbuck, one yearling colt.

Richard E. Burgess, one stud colt, 2 years old, weighing 842 pounds.

Seth F. Myrick, one yearling colt, 700 pounds.

POULTRY.

There were but few entries of Poultry. The most noticeable specimens, were one dozen "Black Spanish" fowl, by Andrew R. Worth, and one dozen ducks by Charles C. Folger. James T. Eldredge exhibited a spring chicken, with a brood of chickens of her own raising.

PLOWING MATCH.

The Plowing Match took place at two o'clock on Wednesday afternoon. The competitors were William Bartlett, with an ox team; Zimri Cathcart, Joseph Vincent and Richard E. Burgess, with horses. The result of the competition may be learned by reference to the Report of the Committee hereinafter published.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE HALL.

The Hall was as usual, tastefully arranged; curving lines of cedar declined from the centre piece of the ceil-

ing, to the corners and sides of the hall, and in the two upper corners were alcoves, whose pillars and arches were edged and capped with cedar and pine. The adornment of the hall was lighter than in former years, and we think that this was a tasteful change. More flowers would have added to the beauty of the view.

On the east and west sides of the room, refreshment tables were set, spread with fruits, cakes, candies, and other delicacies, flanked with brimming pitchers of lemonade. The centre of the hall was occupied by three long tables of double width, covered with fruits and various condiments, needlework, knick-knacks, and curious work of various kinds.

At the north end of the room, adjacent to the speaker's platform, was a table, covered with various sorts of handiwork, of which the most noticeable was a display of shoes made at the Nantucket Shoe Factory. On this table was a small alcove of vines arranged over a frame. Within the alcove was an image surrounded by the fruits of the season. This ornament was contributed by Mrs. C. E. Coffin.

At the opposite end of the hall were specimens of mechanical skill, chief of which was an exquisite model of a whaling ship, the work of Capt. John Gardner. At the side of the ship, and at the proper elevation, was an image of a whale, of proportionate size, ready for "cutting in." On deck, all the apparatus, equipments and "what not" of a ship at sea were observable, and the work of "trying out" was in full blast.

The head of a sperm whale had just been hoisted in, and men, spade in hand, stood in readiness to let out its

oleaginous store. The minutest objects were all represented, and the boats ready to "lower away" were suspended from the cranes. Not only was the ship and her appurtenances a complete model of what they were intended to represent, but the finish of each object was exquisitely regarded: even the grain of the skin of the whale was exhibited. This piece of work was made by Capt. Gardner, as a recreative occupation for the leisure hours of a few months, and not with a view to public exhibition, but the Committee of Arrangements prevailed on him to loan it for the exhibition.

The mottoes were pithy and appropriate. They often furnished a text for the speakers. Over the platform was this—"With the fruits of cultivation we adorn our sea-girt isle." At the opposite end of the hall was this, "If no harvest of oil, let us turn to the soil." On the east side—"Our mother earth has a gift for all." On the west—"Welcome rich autumn; glad summer, fare thee well." The north-west alcove was surmounted with this—"Love's Tokens." The north-east with this —"Flora's Bower."

EXERCISES AT THE HALL.

Soon after the shades of evening fell, hundreds of persons might have been seen wending their way towards the Atheneum, which, at an early hour, was densely filled by an interested and expectant throng of much-pleased spectators. Mr. Thompson, the President of the Agricultural Society, called the audience to order, and introduced Mr. Grinnell, of Greenfield, a member of the State Board of Agriculture, who came as a delegate from that body to attend our exhibition. Mr. Grin-

nell, in brief terms, expressed his gratification at witnessing the beautiful display of the vegetable productions of our soil; he had no thought that Nantucket could do so well, and he congratulated the farmers and others on their success in the cultivation of the earth,

Mr. Alderman, of the Centre Street Chapel, was next introduced. He was much pleased with the exhibition of taste displayed before him,—a taste useful as well as attractive. Our island is capable of being, if not the "garden of the world," yet a very happy and agreeable one. Let all the departments of industry go on improving, as they have in the past, and the result will be most satisfactory to the community in general.

A humorous song,—"Every Man's a Barber,"—was here sung by the Glee Club, amid great applause.

Mr. Bridgman, of the West Grammar School, next spoke. He was in hopes that he should not have been called on, for he feared those present would be worse "shaved" by his speaking, than any of the characters in the ditty just sung. He could only reiterate his sense of appreciation of the beautiful objects presented on the occasion. He had witnessed some fine exhibitions in his own State [Vermont], and he was sure Nantucket was not surpassed by the display at any of them. He had never before seen such a show of fruit and vegetables as was before him. It is the common impression abroad that Nantucket is but a heap of sand; but a stranger need only visit our Agricultural Fair, and he will no longer entertain that opinion of "the isle of the sea."

After the well-known musical dialogue between Robin Rough and Gaffer Green, Mr. Morrison, of the High

School, was called on. He said he had partly agreed, in the afternoon, to be in the hall during the evening, and he had kept his promise, but, not feeling in a speech-making mood, he had kept far back in the hall, and endeavored to be busily engaged all the time. But it was of no use, and so he supposed he should have to say something. Though not born here, he could imagine the feelings of those who were, when Nantucket is spoken of. He hazarded nothing in saying that no county in Massachusetts could bring forward a richer supply of fruits and flowers than that before him; and certainly he *hazarded* nothing when he said that the ornamenting of the hall could not be surpassed. And then the mottoes: "Our mother earth has gifts for all;" how true and how cheering! And how nobly Nantucket people have acted on the motto, "With the fruits of cultivation we adorn our sea-girt isle." How the Nantucketer loves his sea-girt isle! The whales may all die, but the soil will never fail to give its supply to the industrious toil of him who tills it.

With Mr. Morrison closed the speaking of the evening. Mr. Allen, of the Glee Club, then sung in fine style, a song, full of humorous sarcasm at the spirit of meddling and busy-bodyism,—"Is it anybody's business?" which was received with repeated rounds of applause. The Glee Club also sung, "The spell is broken," and a song addressed by a love-sick English gardener to his doxy, in which the lady is compared with every product of the garden, from a cucumber to a cabbage. This was also received with great favor by the gathered multitude, who then gave themselves up to the exami-

nation of the many attractions of the hall; and thus pleasantly passed the evening.

THURSDAY EVENING.—During the day, the hall had been well filled, but as night came on, the *well* was changed to *better*, the result being, that Atheneum Hall was crowded to overflowing. Locomotion was almost an impossibility, and he who found a good spot for standing room, was exceedingly fortunate. The Glee Club, in common parlance, "discoursed some most eloquent music," when the President came forward, and calling the assembly to order, presented the Hon. George Marston, President of the Barnstable County Agricultural Society, to the audience.

Mr. Marston did not see why he should be called on to speak. He had been down to the grounds of the Society, and had felt amply repaid for his trouble in coming here. Feeling tired, he had lain down, and was aroused by a messenger to inform him that he was needed in the hall. But he would rather be making an address to an audience of one, and that one a lady, than be talking to such an assembly. Nantucket had done well in this, her exhibition; the show could not be surpassed; and he would confer a favor on those present, by not talking himself, but calling on his friend, Dr. Loring, whose address had so pleased him in the afternoon, to say a few words.

The Dr. on arising, said he did not see what right the President of the *Barnstable* Society had, to introduce him to a *Nantucket* audience. He had once heard Gov. Banks say that the more he spoke in public, the more embarrassment he felt when called on to speak. So it

was with him, for though in the afternoon, he had run a race with the horses, and been beat, yet he felt that he had talked himself out, and could not, therefore, say much. He was much pleased with the display made here; he had nowhere seen better. The speaker then told of his school life, where a Nantucket lady had often interposed, when punishment was about to be administered by his teacher—a gentleman well known in these parts,—Prof. Cyrus Pierce, formerly of our High School —upon whom the Doctor was very severe; considering his mode of punishment, etc., to be rather barbarous.— After this he tried his hand at medicine, but he concluded that if every one lived aright, there would be no sick to heal, and there was no better way of living than farming. So he went to farming himself. He had a large "milk farm" of a thousand acres, with forty cows—of the kind known in New York as "stump-tailed,"—and the land on the farm was worn out by long service, without any nourishment being applied in the time. He succeeded in renovating that farm by means of "intelligent labor," and now there was none better. Dr. Loring's remarks were happily rendered, and were much liked by all.

Major Phinney, of the Barnstable Patriot, was also introduced. He extended the hand of kindly greeting to our Society, in behalf of the Barnstable Society; alluded to the successful exhibition here presented, and said that Nantucket could export its share of big pumpkins and pretty women, to raise other big pumpkins and happy gatherings.

The exercises of the evening were interspersed with

the pleasing songs of the Glee Club, with songs by Misses Hallett and Gardner, which were all duly appreciated by the large audience.

By invitation of the Society, an address was delivered on the second day of the Exhibition, at the Unitarian meeting house, by Dr. George B. Loring, of Salem.—We are indebted to the publishers of the Nantucket Weekly Mirror, for our abstract of the Address, and also for our report of the proceedings at the Hall on both days. For this, and other favors, we desire to express our gratitude.

DR. LORING'S ADDRESS.

The Unitarian Church, in which the address was delivered, on Thursday afternoon, was not well filled, the horse race proving a superior attraction to most of the farmers. After the singing of a hymn by the Glee Club, and a prayer, the President introduced Dr. G. B. Loring, of Salem, who was to deliver an Agricultural Address, a brief sketch of which—all our limits will allow—we present to our readers. The speaker thus began:—

I beg leave to offer my most grateful acknowledgments for your invitation to speak on the subject of Agriculture—a subject in which I am deeply interested. I assure you that nothing I may say would be deemed by me sufficient compensation for what I have received of pleasure in the exhibition of farming products. Out of respect to this day, I would avoid the details of agri-

cultural service; my only impulse is, to say something for the benefit and improvement of that science which I deem above all others.

We are but on the threshold of New England Agriculture. The first harvest of the Pilgrim Fathers—their first autumnal festival—the first Thanksgiving—their feasting for three days of the Indian Chieftain Massasoit—this was the dawn of Agriculture in New England. I cannot sufficiently admire the tenacity with which the sons of those old farmers have clung to their native soil. We have a community of intelligent labor not known beyond our own country. This occasion is the jubilee of such labor; and I am sure one topic appropriate to your thoughts, will be Agricultural Education.

A few there are, who have an instinct for Agriculture —a loving acquaintance with the sky,—a sympathy for the heavens above and the earth beneath. These are the great farmers—the leaders and captains of our profession. They seem to inspire every farming community with unwonted zeal, as Napoleon stimulated his marshals to deeds of daring valor.

The speaker then spoke of the agricultural leaders of England,—the pioneers of farming interests, whose profound sagacity and intelligent labor, men have not yet grown weary of studying. But, though the dizzy heights of distinction invite all to ascend, all are not born for leaders, therefore is there more need for the intelligent labor of those who would succeed. After speaking of the many worn-out farms of Massachusetts, so flourishing half a century ago, Dr. Loring continued,—

Intelligent labor is the only thing that can help us in this strait. Our farmers are laboring for themselves, and they can tell you that the most intelligent man among them can accomplish the most work, and the best work in the easiest way between sun and sun. Labor lies at the very foundation of success in farming, therefore should it be intelligent. It is the skilful application of labor alone, that has made such valuable farms in Great Britain—that can elevate Agriculture. And what an advantage our farmers have over the English, where a reluctant service is given to a superior, instead of each man's toiling on his own acres, as with us.

Let each farmer resolve to farm well, and to do this there must be a well-ordered system of farming education. This lightens the road of toil, and by it many an hour of ill-requited labor will be avoided. The great book of Nature is always before the farmer, and he always has leisure for such education as Agriculture demands.

The speaker closed with an allusion to the American Cicero's love of farming; the intense pleasure enjoyed by the intelligent farmer in reading; and the various well-written farming literature, with the need of agricultural colleges and schools.

It is to be regretted that so few of our farmers, and citizens of other classes, can be mustered to listen to a good address on the subject of agriculture. Could the address be delivered at some other time, than one of great outside attraction and display, hundreds would gladly assemble; but such excitement prevails at the time of the exhibition, that few farmers can compose

themselves to listen to an elaborate discourse, away from the show of the grounds and hall. Dr. Loring wittily remarked at the hall, that he had run a race with the fast horses of the place, and been distanced. The address, which is substantially the same as that delivered by the Dr. at several other county exhibitions, was worthy of the author, who is widely known as an accomplished practical, as well as scientific agriculturist. We are not at liberty to give it entire; but hope that the brief abstract which we give, will be suggestive of study, and that our members may be able to see the whole in print.

In conclusion we would call attention to the fact, in such cases too often forgotten, that the great success which crowns the Fourth Exhibition of the Nantucket Agricultural Society, is not the spontaneous fruit of accident, but is the result of intelligent agricultural industry, and at last, of most diligent labor on the part of the Committee of Arrangements, and the officers of the Society. The advantages of the late festival are by no means confined to the Society. The whole community is benefitted. A large number of strangers have visited the island, and have distributed funds among many classes of citizens.

PRIZE ESSAYS.

Responsive to the invitation of the Society, two essays on the subject of Agriculture were offered for premiums; and the Committee awarded to Miss Anna Gardner, and Mr. Alfred Bunker, the first and second premiums respectively. The essays are published entire.

AGRICULTURAL ESSAY.

BY ANNA GARDNER.

Subjects of practical utility, such as generally form the theme of Agricultural Essays, will be waived in this, to consider the mission of the Farmer, or the position he should occupy in the social scale. While all fulsome *eulogy* of the dignity of that mission should be strenuously avoided, the cause of agriculture may be subserved by suggestions pointing out the manifold advantages accompanying a life of severe and almost unremitting toil.

Could society be made to appreciate the *fact* that there is no material interest or pursuit so essentially effecting mankind, as *Agriculture*, being based upon the primitive organization of Nature, it would be less prone to disparage the "King of the Soil."

Could the mind grasp that subtle chain of invisible forces, that occult relation existing between man and the products of the earth, and trace them legitimately to the tiller of the soil, it would pay due tribute to the husbandman, as Nature's chosen agent, standing at the threshold of every homestead, weighing to each a portion of sustenance, furnishing the very substance of the brain, and being closely allied to creative power in the product of results, without which the engine of thought would cease to operate, and life itself become extinct.

The history of agriculture, traced back to the dawn of creation, shows that the first farmer was the first man; and through each successive epoch to the present time, it has been found to improve in a ratio commensu-

rate with the progressive development of civilization.—Though deified, and regarded with superstitious reverence by the ancients, with whom Ceres was the impersonation of feminine grace and beauty, and though reaching from time to time a higher and still higher degree of perfection, by the application of modern art and science,—mankind has not yet learned to estimate its *relative importance*, and yield that homage to the farmer, which Goldsmith recognizes as his due, when he says:

> "Princes and kings may flourish and may fade;
> A breath can make them as a breath has made;
> But a bold yeomanry, their country's pride,
> When once destroyed, can never be supplied."

To the thoughtful mind, the *future* of agriculture is pregnant with interest. The practical farmer will not always be content with mere drudgery; he will not always clog the wheels of progress, by pertinaciously clinging to the prejudice of usage. The old methods are speedily disappearing beneath the light of intelligence. Led by this light, he will forge sound judgment and common sense into improved implements of husbandry, and avail himself more generally, of those already invented, making closer calculations to diminish labor, and augment the products of the soil.

What the system of public school education has been to mental culture, agricultural societies, clubs and fairs, promise to be to the culture of the earth. They encourage and stimulate the farmer; disseminating useful knowledge, everywhere tending to change the rocky hill-slopes, and extensive waste lands of New England, to a state of fertility vying favorably with Old England, so noted for the verdure of its pasturage, its beautiful gardens, and its rich waving fields of wheat and rye.

He who recommends rural life, and makes it desirable, by exemplifying as the *result* of his own skill and all-conquering labor, a beautiful country-seat, embellished with the charms of fruits and flowers, flanked by wide lawns, and surrounded by wide acres of well-tilled lands,

promising abundant harvest, may truly be considered a public benefactor.

> "Give fools their gold and knaves their power;
> Let fortune's bubbles rise and fall—
> Who sows a field, or trains a flower,
> Or plants a tree, is more than all."

By uniting use and beauty, and giving a greater attention to horticulture, our young men might become more enamored of their calling; while they train the golden fruit, or woo from the mellow earth the aromatic flower as well as the esculent vegetable, they would learn to appreciate agriculture as an art, worthy the exercise of their best powers.

The country would then cease to be robbed of that large class of enterprising, aspiring young men, who are continually crowding into the city, already filled to repletion, seeking employment—flocking to its warehouses and workshops—humbly knocking at the doors of counting-rooms, and entering the long list of competitors who throng the city daily, asking situations which will relieve them from manual labor, no matter how meagre the salary received, provided it will enable them to wear the habiliments, and assume the habits of a city gentleman. Any means subserves the cause of agriculture, which tends to disabuse young minds either in the city or country, of the absurd, *false* impression, that it is more honorable to measure tape than to follow the plough,—to calculate profit and loss in a counting-house, where humanity ranges no higher than the ledger, than to employ the same noble faculties to balance accounts in the fields of nature—to estimate by a nice observation, of the varieties of soil, and all the modifying circumstances of weather and temperature, the probable amount of crops to be obtained from a given number of acres.

The farmer has the advantage of other manual laborers in the healthfulness of his calling. No gymnasium exercises could be better adapted to develop and bring into play all the muscles of the frame, than the farm.—

The symmetry of the limbs is not destroyed, nor the vigor of the constitution impaired, by overtaxing one set of muscles, as is the case in most mechanical occupations.

The farmer is independent. Labor is his capital. Having wisely invested it in broad acres of land, a bank which is permanent, and not subject to the fluctuations of rising and falling stocks, he can afford to indulge in that regal luxury, the prerogative of wealth and station, *freedom of thought*. His opinions have not been dictated and meted out to him by patrons,—they are his own, and bear the stamp of originality in their honest utterance. True, he who worships Mammon more than God, who prostitutes his manhood before the golden calf, would not be likely to have his passion gratified by the slow process of farming. As the waving fields of grain bend to the summer wind, so the husbandman must learn to yield his will to the order of nature. He cannot hasten or retard her progress.

"The mills of God grind slowly." Little by little, step by step, the miracle of nature performs her operations. If they are "slow," the farmer knows they are sure—that great powers, mightier than he can fathom, are working *with* and *for* him. All the chemical elements are his servants; heat and electricity are subtle agents, ministering to his interests; and he trusts the ancient promise still remains good, "That seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter shall not fail." The farmer also gains the wealth of wisdom while he earns his bread; for the ample storehouse of nature freely opens her treasures to his understanding—and there is no better teacher. He must indeed be impotent of thought, who does not learn in such a school.

At every step in the progress of vegetation, through all its chemical and organic changes, from the germinating seed to the perfected fruit, his mind is quickened and enriched with wise suggestions. The varied revolving seasons, from the first quick flush of Spring, through

the deeper green of Summer, the golden harvest of Autumn and the splendor of Winter, minister to him lessons of patience, tranquillity and piety.

As we contemplate this moving panorama of men and things on our vast globe, sweeping in imagination through magnificent cities, busy country towns and thriving villages, or as we stand lost in wonder before some stupendous architectural structure, the granite embodiment of thought, or turn to the great emporiums of art, trade and commerce, where congregate representatives from every quarter of the globe, and where are collected the combined results of human industry and skill, the mind instinctively falls back upon agriculture, as the moving spring, the original source whence proceeds all this thrift, ingenuity and prosperity.

Our shipping, richly freighted with the products of every clime; our storehouses, filled with the wealth of Damascus and the Indies, are no *less* subject to the prosperity of agriculture, than are our *granaries*, so abundantly supplied with the harvests crowning each successive year. In this view, agriculture becomes invested with an attraction and an importance not usually attributed to it, and recommends itself to all earnest to promote the cause of virtue and freedom, with which it is so inseparably associated, that the degree of prosperity and happiness to which a country has attained, may be inferred from a given state of agriculture.

Our little island, so noted in past years for commercial success, having suffered somewhat on account of *general* depression in that department, as well as from a decline in the whale fishery, which had hitherto constituted its chief source of wealth, possesses ample facilities of soil and climate, to retrieve its decaying fortunes, by prosecuting perseveringly the agricultural pursuits, so auspiciously commenced—by cultivating on an extensive scale the cranberry, strawberry, and other fruits indigenous to the soil, together with choice exotics.

The shade trees growing so thriftily on our commons,

as well as the promising young orchards on various parts of the Island, are a good augury of what energy and skill may accomplish for the future. Forty years ago, Nahant, now a celebrated watering place, and attractive as a garden of beauty, presented in its barren, rocky surface, a picture of bleakness and desolation, in comparison with which, Nantucket is a blooming isle. Some of us may live to see a part of our waste lands converted into dense forests, containing as great a variety of trees as may be found within an equal area in any part of our latitude. The advantages of shade trees on our island, is a subject too prolific to be considered within the limits of an essay like this. Suffice it to say that a "battalion of trees" would temper the cutting, health-destroying east winds so prevalent here, and defend vegetation from its most bitter *enemies*, the *extremes* of heat and cold.

By returning in some measure to the pastoral habits with which our Islanders were once familiar, we shall reap for ourselves and our children the advantages incident to a life of simplicity and comparative purity.

By laboring much in the open fields, living close to the heart of Nature, we shall learn more and more to love her ministrations, and to conform our lives to that law of progress which the most thoughtless cannot but observe, working ceaselessly in Nature's mysterious laboratory, where she is ever bringing forth beauty from decay, and clothing the earth in garments of praise, making "the wilderness and solitary places to be glad, and the desert to rejoice and blossom as the rose."

AGRICULTURE.

BY ALFRED BUNKER.

Among the many subjects which to-day engross the public attention, no one perhaps claims, and receives, more marked and general notice, than the subject of Ag-

riculture. Lying, as it does at the very foundation of national prosperity, all are either directly or indirectly interested in its progress, as by all, to a greater or less extent, its blessings and advantages are shared.

Though in the past much neglected and set aside as simple and commonplace, it is to-day calling on the chemist, the philosopher, and the mechanic, no less than on the laborer, for the result of their study and exertion, and furnishing a daily widening field for the careful research of the first, and the inventive and constructive genius of the second. Daily, too, is the public mind becoming more and more convinced of its vast importance, and by occasions like the present throughout the state and the land, showing an increasing interest, an awakening which cannot but prove conducive to the spread of agricultural knowledge, and the improvement of everything therewith connected. And in view of these facts, allow us to present to you a few pages on this subject, so intimately connected with our most vital interests.

Without particularly referring at this time to the *history* of Agriculture, or enlarging on the fact of its great antiquity, dating back, as it does, to the time when our great ancestor was placed in the garden of Eden, "to dress it and to keep it," we may pause to notice that in all countries it has been coeval with civilization, and has advanced with it hand in hand. Each has been an index of the other's progress. Among savage and uncivilized tribes, little attention is given to the cultivation of the soil. Wild and restless in disposition, they are not inclined to so quiet a pursuit, and prefer to look to the chase, and the spontaneous productions of the earth for the supply of their daily necessities. With those partially civilized, we notice some little attention bestowed upon agriculture. With others still further advanced in civilization, we notice a still farther advance in *this* respect; and so on, up to the most enlightened nation, where we shall find agriculture receiving the warmest support.

But let us give our attention more especially to the consideration of its importance, results, and attractions as an employment. As we have before stated, *Agriculture lies at the foundation of national prosperity.* Upon this, does a country or people rely for substantial progress, and indeed for the means of retaining the position which it may already have reached. A *city* may flourish by its commercial and mercantile interests; a *town* or *district* may advance by means of its manufacturing industry; but to be substantially prosperous, a *country* must look mainly to agriculture.

Of the truth of this assertion, history, no less than our own deductions, assures us. Look at Spain and Portugal. Where is the power that once was theirs? Contrast their condition with that of England, which has ever been an agricultural country, and where at the present day, agriculture receives so general attention. Look at any other countries; you will, in the main, find similar results. Progress has marked the one, decline the other. You will notice, too, that of all the employments in a country, agriculture is the principal, engaging, it is estimated, the attention of seven-eighths of the population of almost every civilized community, and indirectly interesting the remainder.

Agriculture is the promoter of mechanic and manufacturing interests, and united with these, is also one of the great supports of mercantile and commercial operations. Upon the mechanic, it calls for the implements of husbandry, and to him it looks for constant improvement in these, constant addition to their number to meet its growing wants, and to the manufacturer, it supplies much of the raw material which feeds the spindles and looms, whose busy hum is heard in the thriving town; again, through these, calling again on the mechanic for more machinery to consume its products, and give them to the world, changed to fabrics of utility or ornament. And following this train of thought, we behold an almost endless variety of occupations growing ultimately

out of agriculture. And if we should include in the term agriculture the raising of sheep and cattle, whose covering at length becomes our own, our list of machines required, whose construction furnishes employment for various artizans, would be still more extended, and the number and variety of dependent manufactures increased.

From these considerations, it is evident that domestic and foreign commerce are, to a very great extent, promoted, we might say, *supported* by agriculture, whether we consider the daily trade in the necessaries of life which every man must make, or the wholesale purchases and shipments of the heaviest merchants. In nothing else is there a trade which will compare with that in agricultural products, and in manufactures in which the material manufactured is ultimately an agricultural product. And if from these considerations we see the dependence of a country upon agriculture for prosperity, much more apparent is it, when we notice farther that *Agriculture feeds all.* The food of man is of either vegetable or animal origin, and is thus directly or indirectly, derived from our parent Earth, and when the cultivation of the soil is neglected, the amount of produce is necessarily reduced, and the means of subsistence being denied to some, want and consequent diminution in population must ensue. And farther, as from agriculture, trade and manufactures derive much of their support, these must, in such a case, decline, for the want of commodities to exchange, in the first instance, and raw material to manufacture, in the second. With these, falls the support of those who depend upon them for their livelihood, and business generally stagnates. But when the reverse is true, when by skilful husbandry the products of the soil are increased, it infuses new life into every business, and thus benefits all. Do you doubt this? Observe, then, the difference between "the times," in the years when the crops are good, when the wheat fields, the potato lands and the orchards yield an abundant harvest, and "the times" when the returns are

scanty, when dollars are few, and each must buy twice or thrice as much as before. The more Agriculture produces, the more she sells, and the more she buys in return; the more she gives to the manufacturer, and the more she requires of him. Thus, whether we say that, *directly*, to our *food* we owe our existence, or *indirectly*, to our *business*, in either case, ultimately, agriculture feeds us all.

Agriculture, directly or indirectly, pays the burden of our taxes and tolls. From these, the government derives its support, and in proportion as these are ample or scanty, will be the amount which from the public treasury, will be expended for the public good. Farming lands properly tilled, constantly increase in productiveness and value, and by this increase the amount of money raised by taxation is made greater, and the surplus produce, requiring to be carried from one part of the country to another, must as it becomes greater and greater, pay larger and larger tolls for its transportation. Annihilate agriculture, and how shall government be supported?

Agriculture is the principal source of our wealth. On this we have touched before, when we have spoken of its effect on the mechanic arts, manufactures and commerce. Since by these much wealth is obtained, in so far as they are dependent upon agriculture, we are dependent upon it for our pecuniary resources, and as agricultural prosperity gives them greater energy and value, it behooves us to do all that we are able for the advance of that upon which so much depends, whether by directly increasing the amount of intelligence in the farming community, so that the soil shall be more successfully cultivated, or by offering such inducements to agriculturists as shall cause them to make greater effort to obtain increased production from their lands, to which end, nothing perhaps contributes more than the establishment of Agricultural Societies, by which a healthful rivalry is established among our farmers, and a profitable

interchange of thought on methods of cultivating the various crops is promoted. *Pecuniarily*, then, such societies are an advantage.

Agriculturists are the guardians of our freedom, and through the influence of agriculture, the moral and physical health of the state is preserved. No classes in the community have shown themselves more devoted to liberty than those who look to the earth for support. To them the soil belongs, and at length they become, as it were, attached to it, jealous of any infringement on their rights, and firmly set against any enemy who would take from them the result of their labors. From the nature of their occupation they grow independent in feeling, and, remote from the temptations of the city, preserve more generally a moral integrity, which, if coupled with intelligence, makes them, like the sturdy yeomanry of revolutionary times, ready to stake all in the defence of their liberties. And exerting such an influence upon the characters of those who pursue it, promoting habits of industry, temperance, moral rectitude, and independent thought, agriculture may justly be regarded as one of the great preservers of the moral as well as physical integrity of a state, and the more we assist these influences, by educating the agriculturist in general knowledge, as well as for his especial work, the more we do to advance the cause of virtue and consequent happiness in the community.

All who have carefully considered the few brief suggestions which we have now thrown out, but which are but a small part of what might be presented, or what the mind of each will naturally suggest, will, by this time, we think, be fully convinced, and if so we will leave this branch of our subject, and now consider,

The attractions of agriculture as an occupation. These may be noticed in four divisions,

First. *As a means of obtaining wealth.*—Every young man about to enter upon the business which he chooses for his life work, every parent who sees his son

about to commence, naturally feels a solicitude that the business shall furnish a sufficient return to supply present necessities, and provide for a time of relaxation from active pursuits in the future. Hence it is the almost universal tendency to estimate everything with reference to its money value, and in this spirit, the first inquiry in reference to any business is, "What does it pay?" Let us, therefore, give our attention as just stated, to agriculture as a means of obtaining wealth. In choosing any business with reference to its pecuniary returns, *that*, evidently is not always the most desirable, which may in particular circumstances and favorable times, yield the greatest profits. Often that business which seems most remunerative, is most subject to frequent reverses, which make it, as a whole, not more profitable, than one seemingly less so. What is then to be striven for, is a business stable and certain in its nature, one on which reliance may almost always be placed. Such a one, which also affords a fair return, is desirable to be found. And what one is, in this respect, more attractive than agriculture, by which we mean a liberal and intelligent husbandry. Without indeed, offering the chances for rapid gain, it is without their counterpart the liability to sudden and severe losses, and stands an employment in which, by sure and substantial profit, one may gain a generous living, and a store to lay aside for the day when advancing age shall invite to quiet and to the enjoyment of the fruits of the labors of former years. The earth yields her annual increase of *staple* products with almost unvarying regularity, though particular years be marked with especial plenitude, and gives to the agriculturist the certain reward of his labors, while, to the merchant, dubious trade gives no such sure dependence. And should we continue our consideration of this point, we should undoubtedly be more and more fully convinced of the claims of agriculture in the respect which we have just mentioned.

Second. *As promotive of health and intelligence.*—

That bodily health is promoted by the pursuit of agriculture, is a fact too generally admitted to require an extended attempt at demonstration. The habits of regularity which it establishes, the out-door exercise which it promotes, and the freedom which it gives from harassing care and excitement too well known to the politician, professional man and merchant, all conduce to the healthful development of the physical and the maintenance of bodily vigor; and, probably, there is not a class of men who are less subject to disease or more seldom visited by the ills of the flesh, than the agricultural portion of the community, By the bodily vigor the health of the mind is promoted; and farther than this, the pursuit of agriculture gives time and opportunity for mental development. In the long winter evenings, while the politician, professional man, and the merchant are still busy in their peculiar vocations, he, exempt from their care and vexation, may spend his time in useful reading from the best authors on almost every subject. Not confined like the clergyman, lawyer and physician for the most part to reading connected with a particular subject, he may combine with the study of scientific and practical agriculture as gathered from books, rich in the facts of geology, botany, and chemistry, much additional reading from standard authors in history, philosophy, and the like, as well as the less taxing perusal of the popular writers of the day. True, at evening he may be wearied with the daily toils, and who that labors, is not—yet in the change from bodily exertion he will find rest, and perhaps in no other employment would he have more leisure for mental culture.

Third. *As conducive to happiness.*—The celebrated Chancellor Livingston of New York, speaking on this point before the Society of Agriculture and the Arts, said:—"If happiness is to be found upon earth, it must certainly be sought in the indulgence of those benign emotions which spring from rural cares and rural labors. As Cicero sums up all human knowledge in the charac-

ter of a perfect orator, so we might, with much more propriety, claim every virtue, and embrace every science, when we draw that of an accomplished farmer. He is the physician who heals the wounds and cures the diseases of his various patients. He is the divine, who studies and enforces the precepts of reason. And he is the grand almoner of the Creator, who is continually dispensing his bounties not only to his fellow mortals, but to the fowls of the air and the beasts of the field."

Doubtless, although every business has its pleasures and its trials, and this in common with others is not without its difficulties, it confers upon those who pursue it, as much happiness in proportion to its troubles, as any other occupation, while it presents few temptations to immorality, and many helps to an upright life. In the language of Socrates "It is the mistress and school of sobriety, temperance, justice, religion, and, in short, of all the virtues, civil and military." And if this is still true, if in the lapse of twenty centuries, its principles and effects have remained the same, what rare inducements does it offer to him who engages in it, as a means of individual happiness.

Fourth and lastly. *As enabling one to perform the temporal duties of life.*—These may be divided into his duties to himself, his duties to his neighbor, and his duties to society. If, as we have just labored to show, agriculture is promotive of physical, mental and moral development, since these include his whole duty to himself, the first part of our last division has been already proved, and we pass at once to the second class of duties, i. e., duties to his neighbor. If he himself, is in the practice of personal, individual uprightness, he is constantly performing much of his duty to his neighbor, as he thus, by his example, aids him to be upright and intelligent, and in every way exerts over him an influence for good. In addition to this, is the opportunity to assist him by advice or aid, and in a thousand ways to contribute to his well being and enjoyment.

Finally, his duties to society, are by agriculture, brought particularly to his notice, and especially urged upon his attention. Protected by its laws, interested in its well-being, since by this his own is promoted, he will naturally labor for its good, and since by his toil, as we before remarked, national prosperity is sustained, and the people fed, no man perhaps indirectly benefits society more than he, and by attention to its laws he gains the respects of his fellows, and by his devotion to agriculture he contributes to raise it in public estimation, and to cause it to receive increased and scientific attention. In the language of another, "The man who makes agriculture not merely productive, but honorable; who surrounds his farm with the image of the most attractive happiness; who dwells in a neat abode, such as a republican might build, and republican simplicity ought to desire; who, in addition to the song of the robin, can make the music of contentment flow around his calm abode; can unite it with the intelligence of a citizen who knows his rights, and is determined to defend them; who shows that *this business* is favorable to mental culture, and as fair a road as any to political eminence;—such a man does more to encourage the profession, than all other causes combined. He touches the springs of action in their centre, and blesses his country and mankind. He plants the laurel beside the plow, and allures thousands to come, and after having toiled within its fragrance, to sit beneath its shade."

We have now considered, briefly indeed, the importance and results of agriculture, and its attractions as an occupation. There are many points on which our remarks might be still more extended, many more which want of time, and the narrow limits of a single essay have compelled us to omit. Yet enough, we trust, has been said, to show that the subject of our remarks is worthy of great and increasing favor, and where we have failed fully to develop any part of our subject, we leave the mind of the reader to continue the thought, hoping

that our remarks may prove suggestive, and thus aid the cause in which we are enlisted, more perhaps than we could by any attempt at direct instruction.

May Agriculture still progress; may the principles on which it is based, be more widely disseminated and understood; may a more liberal outlay be made in the management of farms, and may it rise higher in the estimation of all, spreading its influence far and near, till every "wilderness and solitary place shall be glad, and every desert rejoice and blossom as the rose."

HYMN.

BY MISS LIZZIE C. GARDNER.

The clear, bright days of Autumn,
Have smiled on us once more;
And the farmer now is ready,
To gather and to store.

He sees spread out around him,
His fields of waving grain,
That have ripened in the sunshine,
And been refreshed by rain.

He sees within his orchard,
His fruit so rich and fair;
A blessing sent from Heaven,
To reward him for his care.

Then, as he looks about him,
His thoughts will rise above,
And reach His throne of glory,
Who's Mercy, Truth and Love.

His heart is full of gladness,
His mouth is full of praise;
And upward to his Maker,
A grateful song he'll raise.

He's learned to trust the coming,
Of Harvest-time and Spring;
And finds that each to-morrow,
A blessing e'er will bring.

REPORTS.

Vegetables.

The Committee on Vegetables respectfully report, that the quantity on exhibition was not so large as last year, but the quality was far superior, and they have awarded premiums as follows:—

To Daniel Vincent, for some marrow squashes, native pumpkins, and top-over corn, very fine, 50 cents.

To John Paddack, for a nice Tucker squash, and two good watermelons, 25 cents.

To George F. Joy, for a fine marrow squash weighing 24 pounds, 50 cents.

To Reuben Allen, for three large foreign pumpkins, and fourteen from eight seeds weighed 222 pounds, 50 cents.

To Charles W. Gardner, for some fine orange carrots and varieties of excellent sweet corn, 25 cents.

To George W. Gibbs, for some fine white corn, 25 cents.

To Joseph Edwards, for some very nice red onions,—24 rods of land producing 50 bushels,—50 cents.

To Charles W. Gardner, for three long pumpkins, said to have been raised from marrow squash seeds, 25 cents.

To Benjamin Sheffield, for one marrow and three custard squashes, 25 cents.

To Samuel B. Swain, for some fine turnips, potatoes, sugar beets, citron melons and excellent barley, $1 50.

To E. H. Alley, for some fine Hubbard squashes, 25 cents.

To Charles G. Smith, for some very large native pumpkins, and some fine top-over corn, onions and carrots, 50 cents.

To Zimri Cathcart, for some dried pumpkin, pus-corn, splendid potatoes and corn, $1.

To Gardner Coffin, for one basket of fine Pogie potatoes, and native pumpkins, 50 cents.

To Joseph M. Folger, for some fine turnips, carrots, turnip beets, large white onions, large native and foreign pumpkins—the last two were superior—also, two ears of excellent red corn on one stalk, $1 50.

To William R. Easton, for two foreign and three very large native pumpkins, very fine, and white and yellow corn, the latter cultivated by Lemuel Fish, who has raised about 120 bushels on three and one-half acres of light sandy land, $1 50.

To John G. Wilson, for some fine corn and wheat, 50 cents.

To Master Samuel P. Pitman of Siasconset, for one yellow pumpkin, weighing 31 pounds, 25 cents.

To Matthew Crosby, for Java spring wheat, averaging 25 1-4 bushels per acre, and weighing 64 pounds per bushel; barley, averaging 49 bushels per acre, and weighing 48 pounds per bushel; oats, averaging 40 pounds per bushel; wheat planted 3d mo. 11th, cut 8 mo. 1st; barley, 3d mo. 11th, cut 7 mo. 20th; oats, 3d mo. 25th, cut 8 mo. 5th, raised at Siasconset, (manure, kelp or sea moss) $1 50.

To Shubael Worth, for some very fine cabbages, white and yellow corn, mangel wurzel beets, blood do., fine variety of potatoes, and Dutch horn carrots, $1.

To Robert Ratliff, for some very full grown potatoes, State of Maines, &c., and excellent parsnips and blood beets, 50 cents.

To William Bartlett, for a specimen of wheat, 24 bushels to the acre, and one basket of red onions, for premium, 50 cents.

To George W. Coleman, for one very fine foreign pumpkin, weighing 32 pounds, 25 cents.

To Isaiah Folger, for 2 3-4 bushels of nice white onions, raised from one paper of seeds, 50 cents.

Ebenezer Smith of Harwich, contributed some very good yellow corn.

William Mitchell Barney exhibited one custard squash, very fine.

John Winn exhibited a basket of fine potatoes.

Nathaniel Barney exhibited two custard squashes, very fine, and well developed.

E. W. Gardner exhibited some excellent potatoes and wheat, and two watermelons.

Charles E. Gardner exhibited some beautiful sweet corn.

William Porte exhibited some fine hops on the vines.

Burgess T. Simmons exhibited some fine corn on the stalk.

Alexander Bunker exhibited three native pumpkins on the vine.

William B. Coffin exhibited some very fine Egyptian wheat, on the stalk —very long and full heads.

Edwin James exhibited some large seed radishes.

The several varieties of vegetables exhibited, were highly satisfactory to

the Committee, differing in degrees of quality of course; but as a whole, they were excellent, and reflect much credit on those persons, who in this way, have contributed largely to the interest of the occasion, and which, we doubt not, will be an incentive to others to do likewise, and thus assist in bringing to perfection, these necessary articles of the vegetable kingdom.

For the Committee,

WILLIAM R. EASTON.

Fruits.

The Committee appointed to award premiums on Fruits, would respectfully report, that there was a very fine collection of the various kinds of fruits, probably as good as at any exhibition heretofore.

PEARS.

James Thompson exhibited four varieties of pears, viz., Colmar d'Aremburg, Grey Doyenne, very fine, Vicar of Winkfield, Louise Bonne de Jersey, very fine.

Thomas Macy, Esq. exhibited fine specimens of Louise Bonne de Jersey.

Joseph Silvia some of the same variety, very good.

Robert Ratliff displayed fine specimens of White Doyenne, Gardner, and Beurre Diel.

Nathaniel Barney exhibited the largest variety of pears, viz., Glout Morceau, Beurre Diel, Andrews, Brown Beurre, Passe Colmar, Winter Nellis, Bartlett, Beurre Clairgeau, and Swan's Orange. For the superior excellence of this fruit, as a whole, also for the large variety, we cheerfully award him the first premium of $3.

The next largest variety was exhibited by Mr. Josiah Gorham, viz., Flemish Beauties, very fine, Duchesse d'Angouleme, Beurre Diel. Beurre Clairgeau, fine and large; also one dish assorted. For this excellent assortment your Committee deem him entitled to the second premium of $2.

To Samuel King, who displayed the next largest variety of pears, viz., Soldat Laboureur, Beurre Clairgeau, Buffum, very fine, Jalousie de Fontenay Vendee, we award the third premium of $1.

Lewis H. Wendel exhibited the finest specimens of Flemish Beauties, which were very large, and we would recommend a premium of $1.

E. H. Alley displayed three very fine varieties of pears, viz., Vicar of Winkfield, Buffum, and Louise Bonne de Jersey.

Henry Coffin, one dish of very fine Beurre Diels.

Charles G. Coffin sent in for exhibition only, a very fine lot, viz., Passe Colmar, of which two hundred and fifty were taken from one tree; also, two other varieties, Flemish Beauty and Louise Bonne de Jersey.

H. D. Robinson exhibited a dish of Bartlett pears, which were very fine for the season.

Mrs. Sarah H. Swain contributed the largest lot of any one variety, Marie Louise, for which your Committee would recommend a gratuity of $1.

There were exhibited several specimens not entered for premium, by the following persons:

Edmund Gardner of New Bedford, two varieties, Eyewood and Seckel.

H. G. O. Dunham, one dish pears; William M. Bates, one do.

George W. Macy exhibited one pear, which should have troubled some one's conscience, as it was the only fruit left to him from quite a lot grown this season.

APPLES.

This fruit, although not exhibited in abundance, was very fine, and your Committee would recommend its culture as worthy the attention of all those interested in fruit growing on this island.

To Samuel King, who exhibited the largest variety, the Committee award the first premium of $2. The specimens were Grove, Ladies' Sweeting, Baldwin, Seek-no-further, and Winter Baldwin.

Our worthy President exhibited a very fine specimen of the Gravensteine, to whom we award the second premium of $1.

Josiah C. Gardner, a very fine lot of Greenings, to whom we recommend a gratuity of 50 cents.

Andrew M. Myrick, one dish of very fine Greenings.

George F. Coleman, a very fine specimen of the Porter.

Mrs. B. Penniman, Jr. of New Bedford, exhibited a very fine dish of Gloria Mundi.

QUINCES.

Of this fruit there was not so large a quantity exhibited as usual, but the quality was very fine.

To Peter Folger, for the largest quantity, and being the most uniform in size, also having been taken from one tree, the Committee would award the first premium of $1.

Very fine specimens were exhibited by Mrs. Priscilla Wyer, Miss Ann Bunker, Josiah Gorham, Mrs. Lydia Fitzgerald, Joseph Bodfish, Nathaniel Barney, E. H. Alley and Thomas Macy.

GRAPES.

Of this fruit your Committee would here state, that this island has never before yielded (to their knowledge) so bountifully. Very fine specimens, both foreign and native, were displayed.

James Thompson's Black Hamburgs and Rose Chasselas attracted much attention—one bunch of the former variety weighing 4 1-2 pounds—and in the opinion of your Committee are entitled to a premium of $3. Very handsome specimens of Diana and native grapes were exhibited by the same gentleman.

E. H. Alley had some splendid specimens, consisting of the following varieties: Black Hamburg, White Sweetwater, Rose Chasselas, and Hartford Prolific; and is well entitled to a premium (for the largest variety) of $2.

Samuel King also showed a very fine specimen of Rose Chasselas, for which the Committee recommend a premium of $1.

Of native grapes, the exhibition was beautiful indeed, and your Committee found much difficulty in deciding to whom belonged the premium on Isabella Grapes. They have endeavored to judge impartially, and award to Isaiah Folger the first premium of $2.

To Davis Gorham, Freeman Parker, and D. C. Baxter, the Committee recommend a gratuity of $1 each.

The following persons exhibited fine specimens of this beautiful fruit, viz.: Mrs. Mary Watson, Mrs. Charles Weeks, Mrs. Sarah H. Swain, Lewis H. Wendel, Josiah Gorham, H. D. Robinson, William H. Shaw, Nathaniel Barney, and Jesse Baker.

PEACHES.

This excellent fruit could not have been expected to have had much variety. Your Committee were very much surprised to find very fine specimens from Miss Eunice Coleman and Mrs. M. C. Ewer. To these ladies, for their interest in the exhibition of what the island can produce, the Committee recommend a gratuity of 50 cents each.

Misses Annie Wood, and Sophia Hodges, Mrs. Reuben Chase, and Mrs. George Coleman, contributed very much to the interest of the exhibition of fruits, by their display of tastefully arranged baskets, assorted of the same.

Master George A. Myrick also entered for premium, a fine assortment of fruit very prettily arranged; and to encourage the same, we recommend a gratuity of 50 cents.

CRANBERRIES.

For the best dish of Cranberries, we award a gratuity to George Easton of 25 cents.

Some very fine specimens were shown by Edward W. Gardner, John J. Gardner, and Gardner Coffin.

WILLIAM M. BATES,
HENRY COFFIN,
SAMUEL KING,
} Committee.

Field Crops.

Your Committee on Crops, would say that they have attended to the duty assigned them, and report as follows:

The premium for the best acre of Corn, was claimed severally by William H. Bennett, Charles W. Gardner, Edward Hammond, and Samuel B. Swain. The Committee find that the corn entered by Samuel B. Swain, was the best, and award him the first premium of $5.

The acre entered by Charles W. Gardner, being the next best, we award him the second premium of $3.

That entered by Edward Hammond being very good corn, your Committee regret there not being a greater number of premiums offered, as he would have been entitled to the third premium.

The Committee were of the opinion that the corn entered by William H. Bennett, had it been planted three or three and one-half feet apart, instead of five, would have been entitled to the first premium.

OATS.

Only one entry of Oats was made, that by John G. Wilson, and to him we award the first premium, of $4.

WHEAT.

Only one entry of Wheat was made, that by John G. Wilson, and in the opinion of the Committee, was not worthy a premium.

FRENCH TURNIPS.

There were three entries of Turnips; by Samuel B. Swain, Asa P. Jones, and Manuel Enas, and the Committee were of the opinion that the half-acre entered by Asa P. Jones, was the best, and award him the first premium of $3.

To Samuel B. Swain, for the next best, we award the second premium of $2.

The piece entered by Manuel Enas, being less than a half-acre, although producing very good turnips, we did not consider worthy of a premium.

CRANBERRIES.

Your Committee were highly pleased with the experiments of John J.

Gardner, in the cultivation of the cranberry, he having reclaimed some three acres of swamp, which was before almost worthless; from which he has raised three bushels of fine fruit from one rod. Our attention was called to several pieces in different stages of their growth, some having been recently set out, looking puny and feeble, others of older date, looking stronger, with runners more numerously thrown out and extended. On the piece offered for premium, the vines covered the surface with a mass of net work, apparently in a most healthy and vigorous state, and presenting an appearance gratifying to any one to witness, and, it may be supposed peculiarly gratifying to the proprietor, and to him we award the first premium, of $5.

And here let us suggest to those owning similar swamp lands, of which there are hundreds of acres on the island, to profit by the experience of those engaged in the cultivation of the cranberry, by going and doing likewise. In conclusion, your Committee would say, that in order that those entering crops for premium, should be satisfied with the examination of them, we were induced to be very particular in this respect. We have examined the crops in the field thoroughly and faithfully, have taken into account the soil, the location, the tillage, the present crop in comparison with that of last year, and the prospect for the future, have measured one rod carefully and accurately; have designed to take it not from a manure heap, but a fair specimen of the whole piece, have picked the rod, husked and weighed it accurately, as truly so as if we were buying or selling; and here let us say, that had the same accuracy attended the statements of those entering crops for premium, it would have saved the Committee much trouble and perplexity, and we wish to call the attention of the community in general, and the Society in particular, to the importance of having those making applications, make their statement in strict accordance with the regulations of the Society. Nothing is or can be so embarrassing to a Committee, whose duty it is to decide between the different claimants, as any inaccuracy or want of precision in the papers before them. Your Committee therefore recommend, that in future, no claims for premiums shall be considered, unless the same has been made and filed with the Secretary, in strict compliance with the published rules and regulations of the Society, that members and others making or intending to make entries for premiums, may regard this as necessary from the outset. All of which is respectfully submitted.

ALLEN SMITH, *Chairman.*

Flowers.

The Committee on Flowers have attended to the duty assigned them, and would report on exhibition:

From Mrs. William Hadwen, one dish of flowers, skilfully arranged.

From Mrs. Jane Folger, one dish of dahlias.

From Lewis H. Wendel, four vases of dahlias, handsomely arranged, with his usual taste—award, 50 cents.

Master J. W. B. Hallett, two dishes of flowers; also, two cones of dahlias, and a wax plant in bloom, very fine. We award him $1 50.

From Mrs. Lydia H. Morton, two dishes of dahlias.

From Mrs. Samuel B. Swain, a fine cluster of Noysett roses, 33 in number; also, a vase of dahlias.

From Mrs. William Starbuck, three bouquets of dahlias, tastefully arranged.

From Mrs. Elizabeth Marvin, four pot plants, and one crassula, for which we award 50 cents.

From Miss Sally Ann Coleman, a choice collection of cut flowers—award 50 cents.

From Mrs. George Worth, one dish of dahlias.

From Miss Annie Wood, a rare bouquet from New York, tastefully arranged; also, a stand of flowers, for which we award 75 cents.

From Mrs. J. B. King, a dish of cut flowers, with several beautiful roses, finely grouped.

From Mrs. Frederick A. Chase, a choice bouquet of roses, interspersed with geranium leaves—award, 50 cents.

From Mrs. Elijah H. Alley, a cone of flowers; also, two bouquets of dahlias, arranged with her usual good taste, and four pot plants, among which her beautiful lantana was most conspicuous—award, $1.00.

From Mrs. George W. Macy, a floral harp, artistically arranged, which added much to the decoration of the hall, for which we award 75 cents.

From Cromwell Barnard, Jr., two vases of wild flowers and dahlias, elegantly arranged—award 75 cents.

From Thomas Macy, a very fine crassula, in bloom, and a beautiful night-blooming Cereus, preserved in alcohol. This is one of those rare flowers, which Mr. Macy exhibits so often to his numerous friends.

From Mrs. B. H. Whitford, a beautiful crassula in bloom—award 25 cents.

From Mrs. E. P. Fearing, two vases of cut flowers.

The array of flowers compared very favorably with last year, when we consider the numerous atmospheric changes previous to the opening of the

Fair, having destroyed many very beautiful and tender flowers, which, but for this, would have graced and rendered more attractive the already tasteful display; and while we remember the object of these exhibitions is not merely to gratify the eye, but to afford each an opportunity for the culture of something useful, as well as beautiful, let us not be unmindful of the taste, skill, and liberality of the many contributors to the floral department, hoping to see each year, many more specimens of rare and choice collections, showing that we are still progressing in the beautiful study of horticulture. All of which is respectfully submitted.

MRS. GEORGE W. MACY,
MRS. SARAH A. THOMPSON,
MRS. JOHN W. CARTWRIGHT, } Committee.

Fruit and Forest Trees.

The Committee of the Nantucket Agricultural Society on Fruit and Forest Trees, received no entry of Fruit Trees, and but two of Forest Trees, both of which are of hard pine, and by Joseph Vincent; both are in the "Middle Pasture."

No. 1, is on the north side of the old Eastern Shearing Pen road, and contains about twenty acres; and to it your Committee award the first premium of $5.

No. 2, is North of the South Polpis road, and contains about twelve acres; and to it your Committee award the second premium of $3.

The first was planted in 1853, and the second, in 1856.

E. W. GARDNER, *Chairman.*

Horses.

The Committee to whom was referred the arduous yet interesting duty of deciding upon the merits of the animals presented under this division of the Show, have been highly gratified in witnessing the increasing interest among the farmers, in the improvement of their Horses.

We believe that on no former anniversary of the Society, has there been so fine a display of Horses as was brought before us on this occasion, and the exhibition sufficiently proves the wisdom of the Society, in so appropriately fitting the grounds for their exhibition.

The Committee being limited in the number of premiums to be awarded, could not confer their favors on all, but deem it justice to the unsuccessful parties, to say that they fully appreciate the many good qualities displayed by their horses.

BLOOD STALLIONS.

Joseph Vincent entered for premium one noble animal called the "Rising Sun," three-quarters "Messenger," and one-quarter "Morgan." His appearance and pedigree are such as to justify us in entertaining high anticipations of his success as a stock-getter, and we consider him in every respect worthy of the first premium of $20.

Richard E. Burgess exhibited a likely two-years old stallion, which showed many marks of excellence, and to him we recommend a gratuity of $3.

MARES AND COLTS.

There were three entries of Mares and Colts; by Edward Hammond, Charles C. Folger, and Joseph Vincent, and the Committee consider Edward Hammond entitled to the first premium of $5, and Charles C. Folger to the second premium of $3.

COLTS OF THREE YEARS OLD.

There were two entries of three years old colts; one by William Starbuck, for which we award the first premium of $3, and one by Joseph M. Folger, to whom we award the second premium of $2.

COLTS OF TWO YEARS OLD.

The premium for the best colt of two years old, was claimed severally by Edward W. Gardner, Edward C. Joy, John J. Gardner, Arnold Morse, and Joseph M. Folger; and the Committee award to Edward W. Gardner, the first premium of $2, and to Joseph M. Folger, the second premium of $1.

COLTS OF ONE YEAR OLD.

There were four entries of one year old colts, to wit:—by William Starbuck, Edward W. Gardner, Seth F. Myrick and Benjamin B. Gardner;

and the Committee award to William Starbuck, the first premium, of $1.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

For the Committee,

ALLEN SMITH.

Cows and Heifers.

The Nantucket Agricultural Society's Committee on Cows and Heifers, offer the following report:—

That they have attended to the duty assigned them, and find the whole number of cows offered for premium, to be eighteen. Fifteen of those were offered in herds of five each; by Edward Hammond, Zimri Cathcart, and Charles C. Folger, and after the most scrutinous examination, your Committee have awarded to Edward Hammond, the first premium of $8.

To Zimri Cathcart, the second premium of $5.

The herd offered by Charles C. Folger, were very good-looking cows, but in the opinion of your Committee, would not quite compare with the other two.

Of the single cows, one was offered by Shubael Worth, called Flora, four years old, with a statement of her feed and the quantity of milk produced by her, to whom we award the first premium of $5.

One by James Thompson, called Katy, five years old, with a statement of her feed and quantity of milk produced by her, to whom we award the second premium of $3.

Benjamin Sheffield offered his beautiful cow, Sue, three years old, of high pedigree, which, with her bright and glossy hair, and that handsome wreath of flowers around her neck, made her the admiration of all beholders.—Your Committee hope and doubt not that Mr. Sheffield will put that cow through on such conditions, as will entitle her to the first premium at the Fair in 1860.

Six cows were offered for exhibition; two by Burgess T. Simmons, two by Frederick G. Coffin, one by Charles C. Folger, and one by John Winn, all of which were fine looking animals.

TWO YEARS OLD.

Four two years old heifers were offered for premium; one by Burgess T. Simmons, in milk, to whom your Committee award the first premium of $3.

One by Edward W. Gardner, in milk, to whom we award the second premium of $2.

One by John G. Wilson and one by John Winn, both of which were very good looking animals.

YEARLINGS.

Of the sixteen yearling heifers offered for premium, one was by James Thompson, named Lily, twenty-one months old 27th of August, on which day she calved. She gave from the 4th September to the 2d October, 8 1-2 quarts milk per day, and to him we award a premium of $1.

Two by John G. Wilson, two by Charles W. Gardner, two by Zimri Cathcart, one by Andrew R. Worth, two by Edward Hammond, four by Albert C. Folger, one by John Winn, and one by A. M. Myrick, half Ayrshire and half native. All of which can be made to compare favorably with any of the cows which have gone before them.

Your Committee would call the attention of the society to that rule which compels competitors to give a written statement of the time when their cows last calved, the manner of being fed, and the quantity of milk produced, and would recommend that that rule be *discontinued*.

Your Committee congratulate the farmers of this county on the success which has attended their labors, enabling them to bring forward such excellent stock, which was an attractive feature at the late Fair, not only to our own townsmen, but to the numerous strangers whom we were happy to see among us. All of which is respectfully submitted.

EDWARD MACY, *Chairman*.

Bulls.

The Committee on Bulls report that they have duly examined the several animals exhibited for premium, and have made the following awards:—

To Benjamin B. Gardner, for cross of Durham and native, the first premium of $5.

To Andrew M. Myrick, for a native, the second premium, of $3.

Joseph Vincent's 17 months old, one-half Durham, good stock, we would recommend to be kept.

Zimri Cathcart exhibited a good native, under age.

Edward W. Gardner's cross of Ayrshire and native, one year old, had fine marks.

Charles C. Folger exhibited a native, 15 months old, with good marks.

Edward Hammond exhibited a one year old Ayrshire and native.

For the Committee,

FREDERICK G. COFFIN.

Working Oxen and Steers.

The Committee on Working Oxen and Steers, beg leave to report:—

George C. Gardner produced a very likely pair of oxen, five years old, and we think proper to award him the first premium of $5.

William Bartlett exhibited one pair, and we award him the second premium of $3.

Richard E. Burgess produced a likely pair of two year old steers, and we award him the sum of $3.

Stephen S. Gibbs exhibited one pair 18 months old steers, and we award him the sum of $2.

For the Committee,

JOHN WINN.

Swine.

The Committee on Swine, have attended to the duty assigned them, and report as follows:—

There was but one boar entered for premium, and that by Joseph Vincent, 4 months and 15 days old, which weighed 146 pounds, and the Committee award him the first premium of $4.

For the Committee,

EDWARD C. JOY.

Sheep.

The Nantucket Agricultural Society's Committee on Sheep, beg leave to report:—

That they have attended to the duty assigned them, and find but one entry for premium, and that by George C. Gardner, consisting of one Southdown buck, 3 years old, for which we award him the first premium of $3.

One yearling Southdown buck, for which we award him the second premium of $2.

Both the above-mentioned sheep are of pure blood, and were purchased by Mr. Gardner, of Thomas Buffum, of Newport, R. I.

Five half Southdown and half native ewe sheep, of his own raising, were shown, for which we award him the first premium of $3.

Mr. Gardner also offered one half Southdown and half native lamb, of his own raising, for exhibition. This was a beautiful animal, and promises well to become a fine "young buck." All of which is respectfully submitted.

For the Committee,

EDWARD MACY.

Poultry.

The Committee on Poultry have attended to the duties assigned them, and award the following premiums:

BARNYARD FOWL.

To Andrew R. Worth, first premium, $3.
To James Thompson, second premium, $2.
To Francis B. Gardner, third premium, $1.

DUCKS.

To Charles C. Folger, first premium, $1.

For the Committee,

ALBERT C. FOLGER.

Butter.

The Committee on Butter would report, that five lots of superior quality, were entered for premiums.

To Gardner Coffin, the Committee would award the first premium of $4.

Mrs. William Rawson and Mrs. William H. Bennett, entered lots of butter so nearly equal in merit, as to render decision difficult; but Mrs. Bennett's being superior in color, the Committee would award her the second premium of $3.

To Mrs. William Rawson, for very sweet, firm butter, the Committee would award the third premium of $2.

Another year, the Committee hope to be more suitably prepared with ice for preserving the butter, and arrangements for displaying it to the best advantage.

CHEESE.

A very rich and beautiful cheese was entered by Mrs. Charles C. Folger, for premium, being the first and only specimen ever offered. It attracted

much notice, and was worthy the highest praise, and to Mrs. Folger the Committee would award the first premium of $2.

For the Committee,

ANNE SWAIN.

Bread and Honey.

The Committee on awards for Bread and Honey, report as follows:—

That Mrs. Margaret Carey exhibited two loaves of bread, one of Graham and one of Rye and Indian, for the latter of which the Committee would award a premium of 50 cents, and for the former 25 cents.

A loaf of Graham bread from native wheat, was on exhibition, made by Miss Eliza M. Myrick, aged 12 years. It was very superior, and a donation to the Fair. We think her entitled to a premium of 50 cents.

Miss Sophia Hodges presented to the Fair a donation of very superior tea biscuit, for which we award her a gratuity of 50 cents.

Mrs. B. T. Simmons also offered a very nice specimen of tea biscuit, which the Committee deem worthy of a gratuity of 25 cents.

Under this head we would also report, that Miss Emma L. Crosby offered for exhibition, and a donation, a specimen of delicious sugar candy of her own manufacture, for which the Committee would award to her the premium of 50 cents.

Mrs. Christina Porte presented to the Fair, as a donation to the refreshment table, a very handsomely dressed loaf of cake, for which the Committee think her entitled to a gratuity of 50 cents.

Mrs. Judith Nye offered for exhibition a beautifully frosted and dressed loaf of cake; also, rich fruit cake not frosted, and a very nice sponge cake, for which we award a gratuity of 50 cents.

There were many donations of cakes, bread, pies, pickles, blanc-mange, &c., sent in for the refreshment tables, the proceeds of which go to increase the receipts of the Fair. It is but just, to thank the contributors for their generous gifts.

HONEY.

The only specimen was from Samuel King. He exhibited two boxes of excellent honey, for which the Committee award him the premium of $2.

EUNICE HADWEN, }
ELIZA B. EASTON, } Committee.

Plowing.

Your Committee have attended to the duty assigned them, and beg leave to report:—

There were only four teams entered, but they were on the ground to a minute: Zimri Cathcart's, Joseph Vincent's, Richard E. Burgess's, and Albert Bartlett's. Each team plowed twenty rods, and taking into consideration the land, they think it was done well; the land in part being covered with barren heath, upland cranberry vines, and some small pine roots.

Zimri Cathcart plowed his twenty rods in thirty-eight minutes, and to him we award the first premium of $4.

Joseph Vincent plowed his twenty rods in twenty-five minutes; it was laid smoother than either of the other pieces, but hardly to the depth required by the Society, and we award him the second premium of $3.

Richard E. Burgess ploughed his twenty rods in twenty-five minutes, and we award him the third premium of $2.

Albert Bartlett plowed his twenty rods in fifty-five minutes; it was done very well, but not in the time usually allowed by the Society.

For the Committee,

CHARLES C. FOLGER.

Fancy Articles.

The Committee on Fancy Articles submit the following report:—

WORSTED EMBROIDERY.

Miss Lizzie Hiller exhibited a very handsome picture, which we deem worthy a premium of $1.

Miss Susan R. Hallett had on exhibition a specimen of work of great merit, for which we award a premium of 50 cents.

Mrs. S. M. Haggerty exhibited some handsome articles of embroidery, which are worthy a diploma.

Miss Phebe Ann Coffin exhibited a Scripture scene, for which we would award a gratuity of 25 cents.

To Mrs. Charles C. Folger, for a very handsome sofa pillow, we award a gratuity of 25 cents.

For a beautiful picture, wrought by Miss Sophia Hodges, we award a gratuity of 25 cents.

There was also a very beautiful piece of work on exhibition by Mrs. George B. Orswell, for which we award 25 cents.

Mrs. J. W. Cartwright exhibited a handsome tidy, of new and pleasing style, for which we would award a gratuity of 25 cents.

Mrs. E. M. Gardner also exhibited a handsome fire screen, which attracted much notice.

Miss Lydia W. Bunker had on exhibition a handsome ottoman, which was worthy of honorable mention.

Mrs. Matthew Starbuck displayed a very beautiful tri-colored sofa pillow, which attracted general notice.

Other specimens of excellent workmanship were on exhibition by Misses Sarah F. Barnard, Maria T. Simmons, and Susan E. Morse.

CROCHETED WORK.

To Mrs. Henry W. Davis, who exhibited two very handsome sets, made during illness, we award a premium of $1.

To the scholars of the Siasconset Public School, for their many specimens of work, all neatly executed, we award a premium of $1.

Miss Judith Chase exhibited two crocheted shawls, which we deem worthy a gratuity of 25 cents.

Miss Amelia Barnard displayed a tidy and mat, very neatly executed, for which we award a gratuity of 25 cents.

We would also award to Miss Caroline A. Briggs, for three tidies and a card of lace, a gratuity of 25 cents.

Mrs. Phebe Coleman, 78 years of age, sent a very neatly crocheted mat, which deserves special notice.

Other articles were exhibited, all of excellent workmanship, by Mrs. Ann Swain, Harriet Luce, S. A. Thompson, O. F. Adams, and Miss Lizzie Hussey.

We would also make honorable mention of a beautifully crocheted basket, filled with fruit, donated to the Society by Mrs. Mary B. Folger.

KNITTING.

Mrs. John W. Barrett offered a very neat spread, showing much skill and industry in its manufacture, for which we would award the Society's diploma.

Mrs. Sarah H. Briggs, for some excellent specimens of knitting, which deserve praise, we award a gratuity of 25 cents.

Several samples, neatly done, were exhibited by Mrs. Eliza Jane Coffin, Harriet Turner, and Lydia Hussey, aged 81 years, whose needlework and mittens attracted much attention, and deserve special notice.

Mrs. Martha P. Gardner also exhibited a sontag, very neatly made, and donated to the society several pretty little baskets.

CAMBRIC AND FLANNEL EMBROIDERY.

Mrs. James C. Rogers exhibited several cambric sets, for which we award a premium of $1.

Also to Mrs. D. C. Baxter, who exhibited a specimen of excellent needlework, we award a premium of $1.

Miss Eliza T. Hinckley had on exhibition a handkerchief, very neatly worked, for which we award a premium of 50 cents.

Mrs. Benjamin H. Whitford, for a piece of work, we also award a premium of 50 cents.

Miss Anna Cobb offered a specimen of embroidery, for which we award a gratuity of 25 cents.

HAIR WORK.

Mrs. Benjamin S. Morton offered on exhibition a very beautiful hair bouquet, for which we award a premium of $1.

We would award to Mrs. John Chenery, for a bouquet of hair, a diploma.

Miss E. H. Hinckley also exhibited a very handsome bouquet, of which we would make special notice.

Miss Mary F. Paddack offered hair work, neatly made.

LEATHER AND CONE WORK, POTICHOMANIA VASES, ETC.

Mrs. Nancy Tallant exhibited some very handsome vases, a very tasteful frame of leather work, and some pressed flowers, for which we award a premium of $1.

To Mrs. James Thompson, for a cone frame, we also award $1.

Mrs. James Wyer had on exhibition a handsome vase, which we deem worthy a premium of 50 cents.

Mrs. Cyrus Fisher also offered a handsome vase, for which we award a diploma.

Mrs. Andrew M. Myrick entered a very beautiful shell and leather work frame, which deserves special notice.

PAINTINGS AND SKETCHES.

Mrs. Phebe Mitchell Kendall exhibited a very fine crayon sketch, for which we would award the first premium of $1.

To Henry A. Hinckley, for two oil paintings, we award a premium of 50 cents.

To Seth M. Ackley, for two Grecian paintings, worthy of praise, we would award a premium of 50 cents, and a certificate of membership.

Edward B. Macy, for an Oriental painting, a premium of 50 cents.

To Henry S. Wyer, for two pencil sketches, very well executed, we award a diploma.

To Andrew R. Worth, for an excellent pencil sketch, we award a gratuity of 25 cents.

Obed Harris offered two colored crayons, which attracted much attention.

Mr. William H. Waitt exhibited two paintings on glass.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mrs. A. J. Morton exhibited a ladies' dressing case, of excellent workmanship, which we deem worthy a premium of $1.

Miss Lucy Starbuck entered a bead collar, which was very neatly made, for which we award 50 cents.

To John W. B. Hallett, for his fine aquarium, a diploma.

Mrs. Jesse Yetman, for tissue paper flowers, very skilfully arranged, we award a gratuity of 25 cents.

Mrs. James T. Worth exhibited a fly-trap made of bristles, which we deem worthy a gratuity of 25 cents.

For Miss Annie Wood's block work, we award a gratuity of 25 cents.

Mrs. George Murphey entered a braided mat, for which we award a gratuity of 25 cents.

Dr. Reuben Macy exhibited a very curious fly-trap, made of tissue paper, of which we would make honorable mention.

Miss Eliza F. Hinckley offered a wood-moss picture, quite novel and tasteful in design.

Edwin Swain exhibited a very beautiful collection of foreign shells, arranged with great taste, which attracted much attention.

Mrs. Anna Fish, 82 years old, exhibited two mats, which deserve much praise.

Other articles, worthy of honorable mention, were exhibited by Mrs. James Wyer, Mrs. V. Aldridge, Mrs. Cyrus Fisher, Mrs. William H. Shaw, Mrs. Reuben Chase, Mrs. Delprado, Miss A. Winslow, Miss Evans, and Hezekiah Paddack.

Mrs. Alanson Swain,
" Charles C. Folger,
" Dr. J. B. King,
" T. W. Calder,
" Charles E. Coffin,
} Committee.

Manufactured Articles.

The Committee on Manufactured Articles presented for exhibition and premium at the fourth annual fair of the Nantucket Agricultural Society, make the following awards, viz.:—

To Mrs. S. Morton, for a very neat door mat made of corn husks, 25 cents.

To Rowland Folger, for three baskets made exceedingly neat, and for sale, 50 cents.

To Mrs. Sarah Parker, for samples of woolen yarn and wool bats, 25 cents.

To Miss Julia Leonard, for one jar of preserved citron, very nice, 25 cents.

To Mrs. Andrew M. Myrick, for samples of pickles and ketchup, not to speak of the blackberry wine, more than to express the opinion of the Committee that better will not be produced very soon, 50 cents.

To Mrs. Samuel B. Swain, for samples of pickled tomatoes, ground cherries and cucumbers, such as would put even the world-renowned "Davis" to the blush, 50 cents.

To Mrs. Jane L. Folger, for sample of vinegar made from tomatoes, 25 cents.

To Gustavus Gifford, for one straw fork, which for workmanship and quality fully equalled the celebrated forks of the Messrs. "Partridge," 50 cents.

To Mrs. N. Walker, for a child's bureau, 25 cents.

To Mrs. Benjamin B. Gardner and John W. Cartwright, for one jar each of mangoes and mixed pickles, 50 cents.

To Henry Young, for one case of ladies', misses', and children's boots and shoes, of most exquisite workmanship, $1.

To the Nantucket Boot and Shoe Company, for twenty-five pairs brogans, each made by a different person, and in their best style, we would award a diploma of the Society. Competent judges were called in to select from the above-named lot one pair more worthy of note than the others, and from their judgment we award the first premium of $1, to William C. Hart; and second premium of 75 cents, to Messrs. Cathcart & Hazell; and in this connection let us say, the several pairs of shoes were so uniformly good, both in style and workmanship, that it required the closest scrutiny to make the choice for the premiums.

To Miss Emily Weeks, for a corner "what-not" ornamented with leather work, 50 cents.

There was on exhibition by Jonathan Burgess of Sandwich, a sample of wooden spoons, finely wrought.

Also, by Daniel Montague of New Bedford, three specimens of door-name plates, in silvered glass, very beautiful and durable.

Also, a model farm, in miniature, by Wendell Macy of New Bedford, aged twelve years, very well got up; and we can but hope the day is not far distant, when this youth will be the possessor of one on a more extended scale.

Also, a miniature bureau, made by Capt. James L. Fisher.

Capt. John Gardner exhibited a ship fully equipped for whaling, and in the act of boiling a whale. This seemed to be one of the great attractions of the Fair, and from the fact that the "old salts" who criticized it in every part pronounced it all right, we feel bound to say that it was perfect in every way. We could judge of the workmanship only; and the extreme nicety with which everything was wrought, and the exact proportions which every part bore to the other (together with the evident knowledge of seamanship), satisfied your Committee that it was all a perfect ship should be.

Also, a walking-stick, made by William Clasby, and presented by him, through the Society, to its worthy President; and if obligated to wear it, we can but rejoice that we have not that honor, on account of its huge dimensions.

Also, a beautifully wrought ship, made from a whale's tooth, exhibited by Capt. Alfred M. Coffin.

Also, a case of ivory jagging knives and bodkins, very nice, made on shipboard by Augustus D. Briggs.

Also, an ancient pepper-box and tumbler, by Reuben Barney.

Also, one case of dentistry, from Dr. A. G. Coffin, most beautiful in its workmanship.

Also, a miniature steamboat, made and exhibited by George Orswell, the skilful engineer of the Island Home, very neatly got up.

Also, one beautifully made swift, and samples of turning in ivory, by Capt. James L. Fisher.

Also, one dish of fruit, made of wax, by Mrs. Sylvester Hodges—good imitations.

Also, one specimen of carving on whalebone, by Capt. Charles C. Mooers.

Also, one spring cart, very good, made and for sale by Thomas H. Cannon.

Also, one trotting sulkey, made by Oliver C. Hatch, and exhibited by Allen Smith—said by competent judges to be an excellent piece of workmanship—marked for sale.

Also, several specimens of miniature furniture, on exhibition from the

hands of young masters, viz.: George B. Paddack, Willie F. Barney, and Mitchell Barney.

Also, one case of coal frames for pictures, exhibited by the manufacturer, O. J. Maiten of New Bedford.

GEORGE W. MACY,
DAVID MITCHELL, } Committee.

Hymns, Songs, and Essays.

The Committee of the Nantucket Agricultural Society on Hymns, Songs and Essays, received two Essays and one Hymn (and no Song), entered for premium.

One of the Essays is by Miss Anna Gardner, on "The Mission of the Farmer; or, the position he should occupy in the social scale;" and your Committee are unanimous in awarding to it the first premium of $5.

The second is by Mr. Alfred Bunker—taking a general view of agriculture, showing that it is "the foundation of national prosperity, and that all are, either directly or indirectly, interested in its progress;" and your Committee are unanimous in awarding to it the second premium of $3.

The Hymn is by Miss Elizabeth C. Gardner, and to it your Committee award the first premium of $3.

For the Committee,
E. W. GARDNER.

SAMUEL B. SWAIN'S STATEMENT.

The crop of corn entered by me for premium, was on good sward land, dressed in the fall, with compost, kelp, and barn manure, 50 loads to the acre. Plowed in April, seven inches deep, furrowed four feet, and dressed with old kelp, ten loads in furrow. Before the corn was up, went over with cultivator; afterwards with harrow. Was particular to cultivate as soon as the corn was to be seen, and keep the ground clean and soft. The corn planted, was native seed corn, in furrows four feet apart, and three feet apart in the furrow.

Cost of cultivating one acre, ...	$28.00
Credit for fodder, ...	15.00
Cost of one hundred bushels, ...	13.00

SAMUEL B. SWAIN.

CHARLES W. GARDNER'S STATEMENT.

The acre of corn which I offer for premium, is a part of three acres, of clay and sandy loam, from which grass has been grown for the last twelve years. Last year, (1858,) it produced 1 1-2 tons of hay to the acre. Last winter I put on twenty-eight horse loads of barn manure, and plowed on the 19th day of April, and planted the corn on the 29th, in rows 3 1-2 feet apart, and put eleven loads of compost, consisting of peat and night soil, in the hills. The corn planted, was the "Swain Corn," five kernels to the hill. The piece was cultivated twice, and hoed once.

RESULT IN CROP.

62 bushels warranted corn, worth $1.10 per bushel,	$68.20

EXPENSE OF CULTIVATION.

Plowing,	$4.00	
Planting and Seed,	3.00	
Cultivation and hoeing,	4.50	
Manure,	19.50	
		$31.00
Net profit,		$37.00

CHARLES W. GARDNER.

JAMES THOMPSON'S STATEMENT.

Gentlemen, Officers of the Nantucket Agricultural Society:—

The red roan cow, "Katy," that I offer for premium, was five years old last June, and came in with her third calf Dec. 27th, '58. She has been fed on hay, one quart meal, and two quarts of second quality shorts per day, up to the 1st day of March; from that time until May 1st, hay and two quarts meal, and two do. above-named feed; from May 1st, until green corn stalks were fit, grass alone; and then, till middle of September, stalks in addition to grass. Since Sept. 15th, one quart meal, and one do. above-mentioned feed. She is to come in with her fourth calf April 4th, (next) is now giving 23 pounds milk per day, and the following table shows every seventh day's weight in pounds.

Jan.	lbs.	Feb.	lbs.	days	lbs.	days	lbs.	days	lbs.	days	lbs.	days	lbs.	Sept.	lbs.
2	34	6	29	13	28	17	28	22	35	26	32	31	26	4	26
										July		Aug			
9	32	13	31	20	28	24	28½	29	36½	3	31	7	26	11	24
						May		J'ne							
16	32	20	31	27	25	1	27½	5	35½	10	30	14	23	18	21½
				Apl.											
23	28	27	30	3	24	8	35	12	36	17	29	21	24	25	23
		Mch												Oct.	
30	20	6	30	10	29	15	35	19	32	24	28	28	26	2	23

In nine months, or 274 days, the weight of milk amounts to 7663 pounds, or 3700 quarts, or 13 quarts and a pint per day. All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES THOMPSON.

JAMES THOMPSON'S STATEMENT.

To the Nantucket Agricultural Society :—

The white, hornless heifer, "Lily," is twenty-two and a half months old, calved the 27th of August last, or when she was 23 months old. She was fed on hay, one pint meal, and one pint of shorts per day, till she went into the pasture, May 1st. From that time till Sept. 20th, grass, with corn-stalks as long as they lasted. Since that time she has had one quart meal, and 1 do. shorts. She has given over eight quarts milk per day, with the grass very short in the pasture. Her milk is very rich in cream, and comes to butter very quickly. She gave, Sept. 4th, 17 1-2 lbs. milk ; 11th, 19 lbs. ; 18th, 19 1-2 lbs. ; 25th, 17 lbs. ; Oct. 2d, 18 lbs. ; which is eight quarts and 8 ounces per day. She came of my red roan cow, "Katy," good stock. Respectfully submitted.

JAMES THOMPSON.

SHUBAEL WORTH'S STATEMENT.

The cow "Flora," which I offer for premium, was four years old last Spring. She calved April 3d, 1859, being her second calf ; and her yield of milk, from that date up to Oct. 1st, has been 5,824 lbs., or 2,650 quarts of milk, an average of 14 1-2 quarts per day. From Jan. 1st, up to Feb. 19th, she gave 637 1-2 lbs. Her feed since May 15th, has been grass and hay. The following is a tabular account of her milk.

Jan.	lbs.	Feb.	lbs.	May.	lbs.	June.	lbs.	July.	lbs.	Aug.	lbs.	Sept.	lbs.	Oct.	lbs.
2	15¼	6	9¼	8	28½	5	38	3	33¼	7	34	4	20½		22½
9	12½	13	7¾	15	33	12	43½	10	31	14	27	11	27		
16	13	20	9¾	22	40¾	19	42	17	27	21	28½	18	25½		
23	15¼			29	41½	26	38½	24	30½	28	29	25	23		
30	9½							31							

Yours, truly, SHUBAEL WORTH.

ANDREW R. WORTH'S STATEMENT.

The heifer "Ruby," was calved May 1st, 1858. Her dam was my father's cow, "Molly," which received the first premium at our Fair, in 1857 ; her sire was a bull owned by Charles C. Folger. Her grand-dam is a cow now belonging to John W. Barrett ; the dam of her mother was a superior cow owned by uncle Charles R. Starbuck ; her mother's sire was a bull belonging to P. H. Folger. She is due to calve Feb. 8th, 1860. Her dam was the best cow father ever owned, she having yielded fourteen full *beer* quarts of measured milk at a single milking, and 10 full beer quarts, (also measured) at the next, being 24 beer quarts, or over 60 lbs. of milk in twenty-four hours. ANDREW R. WORTH.

BENJAMIN C. SHEFFIELD'S STATEMENT.

The cow "Sue," which I offer for premium, is a half Durham, three years old, and is now giving 30 lbs. milk per day; in July and August she gave 38 pounds.

BENJAMIN C. SHEFFIELD.

WM. M. BATES, *in account with the Nantucket Agricultural Society.*

DR.		CR.	
1859.		1859.	
For sundry amounts received from interest on notes, &c.,	$90.39	By sundry amounts paid out for expenses, including cost of Grounds,	$2145.41
For membership,	26.00	By interest paid S. Worth,	10.50
" Bruce,	38.00	By am't paid Shubael Worth, on note taken up,	100.00
" Amount received from Annual Fair, at Hall,	342.03	By sundry amounts paid out for premiums,	207.25
For am't received from Fair at Grounds,	376.48	By cash in hands of Treasu'r,	212.96
For amount from State,	206.00		
" am't received for Bruce, &c.,	35.00		
For amount hired of E. H. Alley, for which gave Society's note,	500.00		
For am't received from Shubael Worth, for which gave Society's note,	250.00		
For sundry amounts received as donations,	454.92		
For cash balance brought forward from 1858,	357.50		
	$2676.12		$2676.12

Indebtedness of the Nantucket Agricultural Society. Nov. 30, 1859.		Whole amount of assets belonging to the Nantucket Agricultural Society. Nov. 30, 1859.	
E. H. Alley,	$500.00	Individual notes, bearing interest,	945.00
Shubael Worth,	150.00	Society's Grounds, valued at	1800.00
	$650.00	Cash on hand,	212.96
		Sundry amounts now due the Society,	22.00
			$2979.96

WILLIAM M. BATES, *Treasurer.*

NANTUCKET, Nov. 30, 1859.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Nantucket Agricultural Society was held at the Atheneum on the 20th day of October, A. D., 1859, for the purpose of receiving and acting upon the reports of the Committees appointed to award premiums for articles, animals, and literary contributions presented at the recent Annual Exhibition, and for the transaction of any other appropriate business.

Sundry reports were presented, considered, amended, and accepted; but as several others were re-committed, an adjournment of the meeting was deemed expedient, and it was adjourned to October 24th, 1859, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

J. M. BUNKER, *Sec.*

October 24th, 1859, 7 *o'clock, P. M.*—The Society met in accordance with the vote of October 20th, and revised reports were presented and accepted.

Upon motion of Mr. E. H. Alley, a vote of thanks and a certificate of honorary membership were voted to Mr. Paul Mitchell, of Cambridgeport, as a testimonial of gratitude for a gift of books recently made by Mr. Mitchell to the Society.

Messrs. Allen Smith, James Thompson and Elijah H. Alley, were appointed a Committee to have charge of "the Grounds" during the year.

It was also voted that the Committee for the awarding of premiums at the next Annual Exhibition, be appointed by the Society, at a meeting to be held for the

purpose, on the first Saturday of September, A. D., 1860. This vote was re-considered at the Annual Meeting.

J. M. BUNKER, *Sec.*

ANNUAL MEETING FOR A. D., 1859.

The Annual Meeting of the Nantucket Agricultural Society, for the year ending on the second Monday of December, A. D., 1859, met pursuant to notice, at the lower Hall of the Atheneum, on Monday, the twelfth day of Dec., 1859, at 6½ o'clock, P. M.

The President read the following report, stating to the meeting the condition and prospects of the Society:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

At this, our Fourth Annual Meeting, allow me to offer the following report and suggestions. The Nantucket Agricultural Society was incorporated and organized in 1856. A fund of $1000 was donated in sums from ten dollars to one hundred dollars. By fees for membership, and excess of income over expenses, our capital has increased to over $2000.

At the last Annual Meeting, a Committee was chosen to purchase a lot of land for a Show Ground; with instructions to fence and otherwise prepare it for the Annual Cattle Show in October, 1859. It was voted that a sum not exceeding $1000 be expended by the Committee, unless the officers consented; which they did. At a meeting called for that purpose, it was voted to add three hundred dollars to that appropriation. At another meeting, the officers enlarged that sum to three hundred and fifty dollars, to enable the Committee to build

pens for stock, and help harden the show track. At that meeting the officers gave a general invitation to all persons who were interested, to come forward and lend such assistance as they could; which invitation was most heartily responded to. This enabled us to complete the grounds with a track that compares favorably with any in the State. By a careful estimate of expense and donation, the grounds have cost about $1800; on this we owe $500; which gives us at this time about $1300 in real estate, and $900 in personal property.

We have much cause to rejoice at the success which has attended this Society since its organization. The question is often asked, what good the Society has done or is now doing. Let us glance at the past year alone, and see what has been done with a very limited means. We have distributed about sixty copies of the Transactions of the Massachusetts Society for promoting Agriculture; thirty or more copies or essays on horse-shoeing and other very important subjects of interest; seventy volumes of the Patent Office Reports on Agriculture, for 1856; about fifty volumes of the Agricultural Transactions of Massachusetts for 1858, and three hundred copies of the Transactions of this Society. Over two hundred dollars has been awarded and paid out in premiums and gratuities to about eighty persons. By establishing a Show Ground, we were enabled to offer much greater inducements to visit our Cattle Show and Fair than we had heretofore. The great interest in the show that was to take place, had extended beyond our own county. This induced very many persons to visit our Island that would never have done so but for the

opportunities offered at that time. Those who did come could not have left a less sum than two thousand dollars, which was distributed in small parcels among our town's people. Most of those persons have gone to their homes with such feelings towards us, as will induce a much larger number to visit our Fair next year. If we but think that the above sum is about half the value of all the corn that has been produced in this county the last year, we shall see how necessary it is for us to make our Fair as attractive and interesting as possible.

It will be seen by the Treasurer's report, that the amount of receipts from the late Show and Fair, was much larger than in past years, while many other departments were about the same. Colts and breeding stock were better than usual, with an increasing attention to improvement. Neat cattle were good in quality, but not in number what they should be, as they are one of the most attractive features of the Show. The young stock was very fine. The sheep were of the best quality but few in number. Swine were not so numerous as they should be at the Shows. The plowing was equal to last year, but done in too much haste generally. Crops have mostly come short this year; the corn had felt the drought of July and the cold of August. The whole crop on the Island this year, was about four thousand bushels. Wheat, barley and oats are not raised in as large quantities as they should be. The hay crop is always large in this county, compared with other parts of the State. Fruits were in quality better than usual, but not in quantity equal to past years. Vegetables

were better than usual. Manufactured articles were less than in past years, but of a better quality. Butter and cheese were as good or better than at any former exhibition. Fancy articles were good in quality. Flowers were very fine for the season. The Cranberry crop has been over three hundred barrels this year.

Our Society is now established; let us all cherish it by our aid and support, so that the number and amount of premiums can be increased to that degree, that every person who wishes, can obtain one. I hope the time will come, when we can offer six or eight hundred dollars in premiums. Of this large sum, who will be enabled to obtain the most? I answer, the farmers, if they are disposed to compete in the right spirit and direction. Then let them resolve to obtain the money, and increase the value of their land, and at the same time obtain a larger crop, and one of more value. Let them cultivate the good land better, improve the waste lands, and extend the cranberry meadows; if only ten or twenty rods annually, it would be equal to $500 or a $1000 invested. Let us remember that this past year, the crop of cranberries on Cape Cod, has sold for about $50,000; can we not obtain the like results from our own resources, or shall we depend upon railroad stock, and other investments abroad, or shall we go to a western home.—But before we do either of the latter, let us look at the facts in the case, and ask what is the average of the crops at the West, compared with Massachusetts. If we look at the United States census of 1850, we shall find the average crops of New England, are equal to those in the states of Illinois, Indiana or Iowa. With

these facts before us, can we not take stock at home?

Let every farmer resolve to-night, to keep an account of every crop with itself, the same as the mechanic or merchant. How long do you think the latter would succeed in business, if they were as careless of their accounts as the farmers generally are? Let the farmer ascertain what crop he can best produce, and then invest in that, and not attempt to produce all kinds on one farm. What would you think of the merchant who sold molasses and silks side by side, or the mechanic who attempts to manufacture horse shoes and gold watches in the same shop.

It may be asked what is the use of trying to produce large crops, when we cannot sell those which we now raise? But do you attempt to produce the articles that have a sure cash value? Allow me to call your attention to a few rough figures. They may not be strictly correct, but they will enable you to see the large amount that has to be paid by the inhabitants of this island annually, for products that could be produced here, in part, if not wholly; say for dry goods, $80,000; flour, $50,000; corn, $18,000; feed and meal, $20,000; wood and coal, $30,000; oats and beans, $3000; beef and pork, $25,000; butter and cheese, $25,000; boots and shoes, $40,000; tools and sundry other articles, $10,000. The above figures will cover but little more than half the expense of supporting eight thousand persons, at $1.50 per week, each.

What portion of this large amount do we produce from our own resources? We will say by Agricultural products, hay, mutton, milk, turnips, onions, and most

other vegetables are produced about equal to the consumption. Cranberries and wool are about the only articles that we export. In manufactures, straw work, and boots and shoes are taking a place among our staples, while our great staple, oil, is sliding away from us at a very rapid pace. When I contemplate the above facts, I am led to believe that we have but the alternative to embark in agriculture and the mechanic arts, or embark for a less congenial home than the one which we now enjoy on our native island.

Farmers, manufacturers and merchants, does it not arouse you to adopt some decided course of action, or will you wait for the better times that will never come, unless you improve the resources which you have within yourselves.

The Treasurer made a partial report of the financial state of the Society, and leave was given to him to report in full at an adjournment of the meeting, or to some meeting of the Executive Board.

It was then voted to proceed to the choice of officers for the ensuing year; they were chosen, and their names are published on a subsequent page.

Upon motion of Edward Macy, it was voted that when the meeting adjourns, it be for two weeks, or to Monday evening, Dec. 26th, at 6½ o'clock, at the Atheneum, lower hall.

It was also voted to publish the "Transactions of the Society" for the past year, and to print the work at Nantucket, if it can be done without disproportionate expense.

Voted to proceed to the choice of a delegate to the State Board of Agriculture. The President declared the whole number of votes cast, to be twenty-seven, of which Edward W. Gardner had fourteen, and James Thompson thirteen, and Edward W. Gardner was declared elected.

It was also voted to publish the "Transactions for the year 1860, in season for delivery on or before December 1st, 1860.

It was informally voted to send printed notices of the adjournment of the meeting, to every member, stating that alterations of the Constitution will be proposed.

Voted to adjourn to Dec. 26, '59, at 6½ o'clock, P. M.

J. M. BUNKER, *Sec.*

December 26th, 1859, 6½ *o'clock, P. M.*—The Society met pursuant to adjournment, and it appeared that one hundred and two members were present. The President revoked his declaration of the last meeting, and now declared James Thompson elected delegate to the Board of Agriculture.

The report of the Treasurer was presented and accepted, with leave to add to the same, and to report at an adjournment.

Article second of the Constitution, was amended by striking out the words "one Corresponding Secretary."

Article third of the Constitution, was amended so that the Annual Meeting of the Society shall be hereafter held on the fourth Monday of October.

Article seventh of the Constitution, providing that the expenses of the Society shall be paid from assessments, was expunged.

Article fourteenth of the Constitution, was amended by substituting the words "two-thirds of the members present, and voting upon the question of the proposed change," for "majority of the members," &c.

James M. Bunker moved that a committee of three persons be chosen by nomination, to investigate the election proceedings of the original meeting, of which this meeting is an adjournment, to report forthwith to this meeting. The motion prevailed, and Edward Macy, John B. King, and Elijah H. Alley, were appointed.

It was voted that when the meeting adjourn, it be to meet again on Thursday evening, Dec. 29th, at 6½ o'-clock.

The Committee of Investigation reported that more time would be required for them to discharge the duty imposed upon them. It was therefore voted that the Committee may defer their report until the adjournment of the meeting.

Voted to adjourn.

J. M. BUNKER, *Sec.*

December 29th, 1859, 6½ *o'clock.*—The Society met pursuant to adjournment, and the Committee appointed to investigate the election proceedings of the first session of this Annual Meeting, made the following report in writing, which was accepted.

REPORT.

The Committee appointed at the Annual Meeting of the Nantucket Agricultural Society, held by adjournment, on the evening of Dec. 26th, 1859, to investigate the circumstances connected with the vote taken at the first session of said Annual Meeting, held on the evening of Dec. 12th, 1859, for delegate from this Society to the State Board of Agriculture, have to report:—

That they obtained from the Secretary a list of the names of all the persons who voted at the meeting of the 12th inst. Those who were present and who voted, were twenty-seven. Twenty-three of those voting had complied with the rule requiring the Constitution to be signed. Four of those voting, had not signed the Constitution. Of the twenty-three who had signed the Constitution, the votes of twelve were given for James Thompson. The votes of eight were given for Edward W. Gardner, as stated by the persons voting, and three members refused to state how their votes were given. Of the four votes by persons who had not signed, two were given for James Thompson, and two were given for Edward W. Gardner. The Committee have derived such information as they are enabled to give to the meeting, from the verbal or written statements of the persons voting.

EDWARD MACY,
J. B. KING,
E. H. ALLEY.

The Secretary had leave to add to his record a statement of the number of votes given for each candidate to serve as delegate to the Board of Agriculture.

The complete report of the Treasurer was presented and accepted.

The vote of the Society passed Oct. 24th, 1859, providing for the appointment of the Committees for the Annual Exhibition for 1860, by the Society, at a meeting to be held on the first Saturday of Sept., 1860, was re-considered, and the appointment of said Committees referred to the officers or Executive Board.

J. M. BUNKER, *Sec.*

THE NANTUCKET

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

WILL HOLD ITS FIFTH

CATTLE SHOW AND FAIR

ON

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY,

OCTOBER 11 AND 12,

1860:

And all persons are requested to contribute for Exhibition or Premium, all things Useful or Ornamental, which they can produce.

THE SOCIETY

OFFERS THE FOLLOWING LIST OF PREMIUMS,

For the encouragement of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts.

OFFICERS FOR 1859–60.

Being the fifth year of the existence of the Nantucket Agricultural Society.

President,

JAMES THOMPSON.

Vice Presidents,

NATHANIEL BARNEY, ELIJAH H. ALLEY,
EDWARD MACY, GEORGE W. MACY.

Recording Secretary,

JAMES M. BUNKER.

Corresponding Secretary,

WILLIAM H. WAITT.

Treasurer,

WILLIAM M. BATES.

Executive Committee,

ALLEN SMITH, ANDREW M. MYRICK,
SHUBAEL WORTH, CHARLES C. FOLGER,
CHARLES SWAIN.

Delegate to the State Board of Agriculture,

EDWARD W. GARDNER.

PREMIUMS.

At a meeting of the officers held Jan. 20th, 1860, the following list of premiums and regulations for the present year, was adopted, and ordered to be published with the proceedings of the past year:

JAMES THOMPSON, *President.*

JAMES M. BUNKER, *Secretary.*

Nantucket, Jan. 20th, 1860.

TREES.

For the best lot of Pine or other Forest Trees, of not less than five acres, from seed planted within five years,	$5 00
For the second best,	3 00
For the best lot of Fruit Trees, not less than twenty in number, and set out within three years,	3 00
For the second best,	2 00

CROPS.

CORN.

For the best crop of Corn, from not less than one acre,	10 00
For the second best,	8 00
For the third best,	5 00
For the fourth best,	3 00

RYE.

For the best crop of Rye, from not less than one acre,	3 00
For the second best,	2 00

WHEAT.

For the best crop of Wheat, from not less than one acre,	5 00
For the second best,	3 00

POTATOES.

For the best crop of Potatoes, from not less than one acre,	5 00
For the second best,	3 00

OATS.

For the best crop of Oats, from not less than one acre,	4 00
For the second best,	3 00

BARLEY.

For the best crop of Barley, from not less than one acre, . . 5 00
For the second best, ... 3 00
For the third best, ... 2 00

HAY.

For the best crop of Hay, from not less than one acre, . . 5 00
For the second best, ... 3 00
For the third best, ... 2 00

BEETS.

For the best crop of Beets, from not less than one-quarter acre, 2 00
For the second best, ... 1 00

TURNIPS.

For the best crop of French Turnips, from not less than one-half acre, ... 4 00
For the second best, ... 3 00
For the third best, ... 2 00

CARROTS.

For the best crop of Carrots, from not less than one-half acre, . 5 00
For the second best, ... 3 00
For the third best, ... 2 00

ONIONS.

For the best crop of Onions, from not less than one-quarter acre, 3 00
For the second best, ... 2 00

BEANS.

For the best crop of Beans, from not less than one acre, . . 5 00
For the second best, ... 3 00
For the third best, ... 2 00

CRANBERRIES.

For the best crop of Cranberries, from not less than one-half acre, 6 00
For the second best, ... 5 00
For the third best, ... 4 00

STRAWBERRIES.

For the best crop of Strawberries, from not less than one-quarter acre, ... 3 00
For the second best, ... 2 00

VEGETABLES.

Premiums and gratuities for Garden Vegetables will be awarded, not exceeding in amount the sum of 15 00

STOCK.

HORSES.

For the best Stallion,	5 00
For the second best,	3 00
For the best Mare and Colt,	5 00
For the second best do. do.,	3 00
For the best three years old Colt,	4 00
For the second best do.,	3 00
For the best two years old Colt,	3 00
For the second best do.,	2 00
For the best one year old Colt,	2 00
For the second best do.,	1 00

COWS AND HEIFERS.

For the best herd of Cows, of not less than five,	8 00
For the second best,	5 00
For the best Durham, Ayrshire, Devon, or Jersey Cow,	5 00
For the best native or grade do.,	5 00
For the second best do.,	3 00
For the best two years old Heifer,	3 00
For the second best do.,	2 00
For the best one year old Heifer,	2 00
For the second best do.,	1 00

BULLS.

For the best Bull of pure foreign blood,	20 00
For the best of mixed blood,	5 00
For the second best,	3 00

WORKING OXEN AND STEERS.

For the best yoke of working Oxen,	4 00
For the second best,	3 00
For the best yoke of Steers,	3 00
For the second best do.,	2 00

SHEEP.

For the best Ram,	3 00
For the second best,	2 00
For the best lot of Ewes, not less than five,	3 00
For the second best do.,	2 00

HOGS.

For the best Boar,	4 00
For the second best,	2 00

For the best Sow, with not less than six pigs, ... 5 00
For the second best, ... 3 00
For the third best, ... 2 00

POULTRY.

FOWLS.

For the best lot of Fowls, not less than one Cock and eleven Hens, 3 00
For the second best do., ... 2 00
For the third best do., ... 1 00

DUCKS.

For the best twelve Ducks, ... 2 00
For the second best do. do., ... 1 00

GEESE.

For the best flock of six Geese, ... 2 00

MISCELLANEOUS.

BUTTER.

For the best lot of Butter, of not less than ten pounds, . . 4 00
For the second best, ... 3 00
For the third best, ... 2 00
For the fourth best, ... 1 00

CHEESE.

For the best Cheese, ... 3 00
For the second best, ... 2 00

HONEY.

For the best display of Honey, ... 2 00
For the second best, ... 1 00

BREAD.

The Committee will make awards for Bread, amounting to not more than 4 00

FRUIT.

The Committee will make awards for Fruit, amounting to not more than 30 00

FLOWERS.

The Committee will make awards for Flowers, not exceeding . 15 00

HYMNS, SONGS AND ESSAYS.

For the best Hymn,	2 00
For the second best,	1 00
For the best Essay on Agriculture,	6 00
For the second best,	4 00
For the best Song,	2 00
For the second best,	1 00

MANUFACTURES.

Premiums and Gratuities will be awarded for Manufactured Articles, not exceeding	15 00
For Fancy Articles, not exceeding	20 00

PLOWING.

For the best experiment in Plowing, not less than six inches deep,	4 00
For the second best,	3 00
For the third do.,	2 00

MANURES.

For the best experiment with Manure, with a statement in writing, which is to be left with the Secretary previous to the first of October, showing the kind, cost, and result,	8 00
For the second best do.,	4 00

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

BOSTON, December 5, 1859.

DEAR SIR:—At a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture, held on the 1st inst., it was

"*Voted*, That the several Agricultural Societies receiving the bounty of the State, be required to offer three premiums for the most thorough, exact and reliable experiments upon the proper depth of applying manures, payable in the fall of 1862, as follows:—

"Select a level piece of land of any convenient size, from twenty square rods up to as many acres or more, which should be as nearly equal in its character and conditions as possible. Divide it into five equal parts, numbering them 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, for a rotation of three years.

"Divide the manure which it is proposed to apply, and which should be of a uniform character, into four equal parts. At the time of first plough-

ing in the spring, spread evenly one-fourth of the manure upon plot No. 1, and then plough the whole field of an equal depth. Apply another fourth part of the manure to plot No. 2, and then cross plough the whole field to about half the depth of the first ploughing. Spread another fourth part of the manure upon plot No. 3, and harrow or cultivate the whole field; after which sow or plant the whole evenly, with any crop preferred. Finally, spread the remaining quarter part of the manure upon plot No. 4.

"Observe that by pursuing this course, each of the five lots will receive equally, a deep ploughing, a shallow ploughing, and a harrowing or cultivating, the only difference in them being that in No. 1 the manure is buried deep, in No. 2 shallow, in No. 3 buried only slightly, but coated with loam, and in No. 4 left exposed upon the surface; while No. 5 gets no manure. The manure is to be spread broadcast and as evenly as possible. The after cultivation should be the same on each of the lots, and the harvest of each should take place at the same time.

"Let a statement of the character of the soil, whether light or heavy, dry or moist, leachy or retentive of manures, the crop of 1859, kind and amount of manure used in 1860, kind of crop, when and how sown, number of times and manner cultivated, and weight of product on an average rod of each plot be made in 1860, and returned in the annual report of each Society.

"If there is a double product, as grain and straw, corn and stover, let the weight of the secondary product be given on each plot.

"If the competitor weigh the whole crop instead of estimating it by an average rod, there will no objection to such a course.

"A brief synopsis of the weather for each of the following months, by dividing each month into three parts, and using the terms dry, moist, and wet, to indicate the general character of the weather, will also be expected.

	FIRST THIRD.	MIDDLE THIRD.	LAST THIRD.
MAY,			
JUNE,			
JULY,			
AUGUST,			
SEPTEMBER,			

"A similar report of all the above items, except the nature of the soil, will be made in 1861, and in 1862, when the premiums will be awarded. No manure is to be applied to the second and third crop."

"*Voted*, That the Secretary of the Board be requested to notify the several Societies of the above as soon as convenient; and that the Societies be requested to offer premiums which will secure an adequate compensation for the time and labor consumed in the experiment."

I hereby notify your Society of the above vote. Evidence of a compliance with it will be required before I shall feel authorized to draw a certificate for the bounty to any Society.

One of the greatest obstacles in the way of agricultural progress is the difficulty of obtaining reliable facts and statistics as a basis upon which to establish principles and construct theories. As a general rule, theories are first advanced, and then isolated facts are brought forward for the purpose

of proving their truthfulness. It is true that agriculture is not, in the usual sense of the term, and probably never will become, one of the exact sciences; yet there are many things connected with it which ought to be taken out of the region of conjecture, and placed, by repeated and multiplied experiment, upon a more substantial basis. A single fact or experiment may be of only trifling value in itself considered, but when added to scores or hundreds of others, the whole collectively may elucidate a doubtful point, or settle a vexed question.

With these considerations in view, the Board asks and requires the attention of every Society in the State, to render any aid in the solution of the question here considered, and to act in concert with them, and with each other, in such a way as to give to the result the greatest possible practical and scientific value. I would suggest that the rotation be limited to corn, grain and grass.

Allow me to call your attention to the Act of 1859, ch. 232, sections 1, 2 and 3, and especially to sections 4 and 5, authorizing the Board to make the above requirement, and the penalty of a disregard of, or a failure to comply with, it.

I would simply suggest that premiums of $25, $20, and $15, have been offered by some of the Societies, and that it is desirable that no offers should be smaller than these amounts, as the object above indicated is to induce a multiplicity of experiments.

Very truly, your obedient servant,
CHARLES L. FLINT,
Sec. State Board of Agriculture.

To the Sec. of the Nantucket Co. Society.

In accordance with the requirement of the Board of Agriculture, the Nantucket Agricultural Society offers premiums of $25, $20 and $15, for the best experiment to be conducted according to the preceding plan of the Board—said premiums to be paid in the fall of 1862.

JAMES M. BUNKER,
Sec. Nant. Ag. Society.

The above Premiums will be awarded on the following conditions, viz:

All persons exhibiting breeding stock, are required to state in writing, to the Secretary, *at the time of making their entries*, the breed and pedigree of the animals, so far as they know.

Competitors for premiums for Cows, are required to state in writing to the Secretary, at the time of *making*

their entries, the time when said cows last calved, how they have been fed, the quantity of butter produced by each (if any is made), for ten successive days of any two months, with two months intervening; also the number of pounds of milk produced on every seventh day (if any is yielded on that day), from the first day of March, 1860, to the first day of October following.

All persons competing for the premiums for Crops, are required to make their entries with the Secretary, in writing, on or before August 1st, 1860, giving the quantity, value, location and condition of the land in the spring; the kind and quality of manure used, with its value; the quantity and kind of seed used, with its value; and previous to the first of December, they must also give a correct account of the Crop offered for premium, its quantity, quality and value, with the whole expense and manner of its production, to the satisfaction of the Committee, and no premium will be paid unless all these conditions are complied with.

On Thursday, October 11th, 1860,

The FAIR and EXAMINATION of the STOCK, excepting Horses, will commence at 10 o'clock, A. M., and all animals will be required to remain in the pens until 3 o'clock, P. M.

The PLOWING MATCH will commence at 2 o'clock, P. M.

On Friday, October 12th, 1860,

The examination of Horses will take place at 9 o'clock, A. M.

GENERAL RULES.

1ST.

All entries of *Stock* must be made with the Secretary, previous to 10 A. M., of the first day of the Fair, to be entitled to a premium.

2D.

All competitors for premiums, must enter their articles previous to ten o'clock, A. M., of the first day of the Fair.

3D.

All articles exhibited, must remain during the Fair.

4TH.

No animal or article will be entitled to a premium, which is removed by the owner, without permission of the Committee of Arrangements.

5TH.

All articles exhibited, will have all possible care of the Committee, but must be at the risk of the owners.

6TH.

No animal or article, for which a premium has been awarded by the Society, will be entitled to another, unless it be of a higher grade.

7TH.

Upon application to the Secretary, the Executive Committee will visit any field or crops entered for premium.

8TH.

It will be optional with the various Committees, to award premiums or not, as the thing entered for it, may in their judgment deserve, whether there is competition or not.

9TH.

All persons in the County may compete for the Premiums offered; but in case any one is awarded to a person not a member of the Society, the admission fee of a member will be deducted; but gratuities of less sums than the admission fees, will be paid on demand, to all persons to whom they are awarded.

10TH.

All premiums awarded, not called for within six months, will be added to the capital stock of the Society.

11TH.

Any person may become a member of this Society, by signing the constitution, and paying to the Secretary two dollars if a male, and one dollar if a female.